Dear families and friends,

It was indeed a great experience to be a part of our Parish / School Commissioning Mass and family BBQ held last Saturday evening. Thank you to all who attended and I hope you enjoyed catching up with family and friends.

The weekend’s Gospel reminded us that, “we are the Church” and that all of us are called to reach out to others and to witness our faith. What a great privilege it was to be a part of the vibrant St Patrick’s Parish School community who were invited to respond, “Here I am Lord”.

In this Year of Mercy may each of us embrace the God moments; those opportunities that come to us each day to show the face of Jesus. We can do this by being welcoming and inclusive, listening to and supporting the marginalised and treating each other with respect and dignity. Worthy challenges as we begin Lent and reflect upon how we are living our lives.

Welcome to Bonita Elliott and Daniel Taylor who celebrated Remi Anne’s baptism on Saturday night. It was great to be a part of Remi’s initiation ceremony. On behalf of St Patrick’s Parish School community we wish you all the very best. Welcome Remi!

A big thank you to a number of men who helped clean up around the school over the weekend. Thanks to; Craig Ferguson, Peter and Paddy Reardon, Tom Gaskin, Mark Peterson and Brian Smith. Fantastic help. A special thanks to Brian who has taken on the position of Grounds and Maintenance. The school grounds are looking fantastic.

Today, Staff will be sending home welcome notes and class overviews outlining the learning that will be taking place throughout the term. We hope you find the information helpful and that it assists you in supporting your child. Please consider responding to staff requests for parent assistance in the classroom. We really value parent helpers and the contribution you make to student achievement across the school. Additionally, it’s just great to see parents in the school, we thoroughly support it and the children love to have you here. This is also a great opportunity to meet other parents, have a coffee and chat.

Over the next couple of Newsletters, I am looking forward to discussing our student achievements in Literacy and Numeracy. Some excellent results that need to be promoted, celebrated and maintained. Also, we will look at how our new flexible learning environments are supporting high levels of student achievement.

Hope to see you at our swimming carnival.
Take care.

Vincent Powell
Principal
The Good News

Parish Commissioning Mass and Welcome BBQ
Many thanks to everyone who was able to come to our celebration on Saturday night and to the BBQ after Mass. Fr Pat spoke beautifully about our parish and the readings from Scripture challenged us all to respond to our call as Christians and live the Gospel message. The BBQ afterwards was relaxed and enjoyed by many. Thanks Scott Wilson and Paul Fairall for the cooking and the Staff team for their attendance and support. New and existing families looking to become more involved in our Parish community are encouraged to add their names to the many groups who do work for our Church which is at the back of the church and will be for the remainder of this month.

Ash Wednesday
This Wednesday, 10 February we begin our holy season of Lent with Ash Wednesday. This time is set aside for prayer, almsgiving and fasting 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. The children will come home with an ashen cross on their foreheads to remind them of the start of this special season.

Theological Thoughts
What forms does penance take in the Christian life?
Penance can be expressed in many and various ways but above all in fasting, prayer and almsgiving. These and other forms of penance can be practised in the daily life of a Christian, particularly during the time of Lent and on the penitential day of Friday.

Easter in a Box
This Easter the children will be participating in an ‘Easter in a Box’ activity to create tangible reminders of the Easter journey during Holy Week between 20-27 March. Each child will need a shoebox; so before the boxes from new school shoes are thrown out – please hang onto, send into school and start collecting any other shoeboxes ready for this important event.

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 relates to the story of Jesus being tempted by the devil in the desert during the first Lent. What lead Jesus into the desert?

Last week’s question: Simon Peter was a fisherman who caught fish – What did Jesus want him to catch?
Answer: Jesus wanted Simon Peter to catch men.

Craig Ferguson
Religious Education Coordinator

St. Patrick’s Swimming Carnival - Thursday, 11 February
We are still looking for a couple of people to help with the time keeping to relieve those parents who have been rostered on to this job for the day. If you could spare an hour to give one of the time keepers a break please let the front office know ASAP.

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 10 and 17. Their first full week with us will be Week 5 commencing 22 February.

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 water proof library bag on these days.
Happy birthday to the following students who celebrate their birthdays this week.
Saturday, 6 February - Chloe Luff
Sunday, 7 February - Joel Sharman
Monday, 8 February - Sophie Braun
Thursday, 11 February - Eliza Hargreaves

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

Class Merit Award Recipients
Week 2 of Term 1.
Kindergarten - Joel Sharman - number recognition and recall.
Year 1 - Jezanna Winchester - a wonderful start to Term 1 with her persuasive writing and reading.
Year 2 - Finlay Bock - an excellent oral retell of a book read during silent reading.
Year 3/4 - Charlottie Curtis - settling in well to her new school and class.
Year 5/6 - Ruby Bower - her conscientious effort in class discussion and classroom work.

Wildcat Award Recipients
Week 2 of Term 1.
Responsible
Respectful
Safe

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, and the Coolac Store.

NRL Special Assembly - Thursday, 11 February
This Thursday James Smart our local Rugby League Development Officer will be hosting a special assembly in the school hall after the swimming carnival. James will be bringing along with him the Gundagai Tigers 2015 Premiership trophies accompanied by ex students and a current St. Pat's dad: Dane O’Heir, Molly Dean and Mick Eccleston. Please note that if you don’t come back to school after the swimming carnival you will miss out on this opportunity.

In our Kindergarten classroom last week...
**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Wednesday, 10 February - Ash Wednesday  
Kindergarten rest day

Thursday, 11 February - St. Patrick’s Swimming Carnival  
Special NRL Assembly at the Hall - 2015 Premiership players and trophies.

Friday, 12 February - Summer Trials  
Wednesday, 17 February - Kindergarten rest day  
Thursday, 18 February - Community Council Meeting 7.00pm  
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

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**ROSTERS**

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<th>PRAYER &amp; MASS TIMES</th>
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| **Wednesday, 10 February**  
Ash Wednesday Mass | **Saturday, 13 February**  
Max Peterson & Sam Crane  
**Saturday, 20 February**  
George Harpley & Jack Kingwill  
**Saturday, 27 February**  
Xavier Graham & Ryan Bourne | **Friday, 12 February**  
Renee Lindley & Paula Cotterill  
**Friday, 19 February**  
Michelle Scott & Wendy Percival |
| **Cakes**  
Shannon Bartlett & Emma Peterson  
**Cookies**  
Liz Kelleher & Leanne McDonnell | **Cakes**  
Lisa Peterson & Tracy Murphy  
**Cookies**  
Sarah Graham & Jane Bourne |

Please note cake cooks are required to bake 3 dozen cupcakes or 2 slab cakes and cookie cooks are to provide 1 batch of the recipe handed out.

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**Gundagai Panthers Annual General Meeting**

It's almost time to strap on those soccer boots! The Gundagai Panthers Soccer Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held on Tuesday 9 February at 7.00pm at the Gundagai Services Club. All committee positions are open, so all parents and supporters are encouraged to attend to ensure a successful 2016 Panthers Season. Please advise current Club President Jeremy Pearce if you will be attending the meeting - jeremy1pearce@yahoo.com.au or call 0417 699 418.

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**Gundagai Concert Band**

Any students in Years 4, 5 or 6 interested in learning a concert band instrument - flute, clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, can come along to Gundagai Concert Band. Rehearsals will start on Monday 7th March at the Gundagai High School MPC.

Any students who already play, and have their own instrument are also more than welcome to join the "town band". Enquiries Karen Byron 0402730577 or Brenda Argaet 0427441688.