Dear families and friends,

Next Week, from 6-12 March, St Patrick’s will join with more than 620 Catholic schools across NSW and the ACT to celebrate the annual Catholic Schools Week (CSW).

Here at St Patrick’s, we are immensely proud of our Catholic heritage, and are committed to delivering a high quality education. I would very much like to thank the supportive and talented community of teachers, parents, carers, support staff, Community Council, clergy and parishioners who work together to give our students the best education possible. Our school is proud of the wonderful teaching and learning that takes place in our classrooms every day, as well as the contribution our school has made to the Gundagai and wider communities.

The theme for CSW 2016 is ‘I Belong. You Belong. We Belong.’ which aligns with the Church’s mission to support refugees and asylum seekers at this time in our world where vast numbers of people are fleeing war and poverty. This year’s theme "I belong. You belong. We belong," recognises and celebrates our Catholic faith values of forgiveness, compassion, strength, aid and love.

Catholic Schools Week is also about forging and strengthening relationships between everyone who has a stake in our school – students, staff, families, priests, parishioners, and members of the wider community.

During Catholic Schools Week, we take the opportunity to highlight not only the best of what we do but also to celebrate the diversity within our school community and the wonderful opportunities that come with this.

Once again, thank you for supporting your school and we warmly invite you to visit and learn more about the great things that take place at St Patrick’s every day. In the coming weeks we plan to sponsor an overseas child, supporting them by ensuring that they are fed and educated in a safe environment. This is a great opportunity for students to develop their sense of social justice through outreach and action.

Last week our teachers attended some strategic professional development on high impact learning strategies. Critical and creative thinking, inquiry learning, the structure of effective literacy blocks, student feedback, student data collection and analysis and the implementation of action research within our school context were examined. This commitment by our teachers to participate in ongoing professional learning supports learning programs that are innovative, personalised and relevant to the needs of today’s students. By continuing to develop their expertise our teachers strive to provide the most current and effective learning opportunities for our St Patrick’s students.

Vincent Powell
Principal

To what extent do I try to see beyond people – from where they are to what they are capable of being? Who is one person, especially, who needs me to do this.

Clay’s thought for the week

Walk Together in Faith and Knowledge
The Good News

24 hours for the Lord
In the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis has requested every Diocese in the world to implement ‘24 Hours for the Lord’ prayer vigils in the churches of the world. The request is that for 24 hours, between 4 and 5 March, the churches be left open for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, prayer vigils and confessions. Archbishop Christopher Prowse endorses this across the Canberra Goulburn Archdiocese and your support this Lent in our Parish would be appreciated.

Theological Thoughts
How are sins remitted?
The first and chief sacrament for the forgiveness of sins is Baptism. For those sins committed after Baptism, Christ instituted the sacrament of Reconciliation or Penance through which a baptized person is reconciled with God and with the Church. The Church has the mission and the power to forgive sins because Christ himself has conferred it upon her. “Receive the Holy Spirit, if you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” (John 20:22-23)

Have you filled a bucket today?
We were led so beautifully last Wednesday by our Infants team about being bucket fillers. Author, Carol McCloud says each time you say or do something nice to someone else, you are filling up their bucket as well as your own. In our entrance there is a bucket filled with words and deeds the children came up with in the liturgy. Ask your child about what they wrote to fill up someone else’s bucket and their own. This week we will be led by our Yr5/6 class and Mrs Flanagan as we celebrate Mass together. Please come and join us on Wednesday at 12 in the Church.

Gospel Quiz
When misfortune strikes people considered to be sinners, others might say: ‘They had it coming! God is punishing them!’ In this weekend’s Gospel Jesus criticises such attitudes on two grounds. Firstly, it is wrong to see the wrath of God in every tragic event. Secondly, we need to recognise that we are all guilty of sin and in need of conversion. Instead of judging others, let us ask God to forgive our sins and help us as we undertake the difficult task of reform. This week’s question: What type of tree beared no fruit?

Last week’s question: Who were the three disciples and who were the three tents for? The three disciples were Peter, James and John; and the three tents were for Jesus, Moses and Elijah.

Craig Ferguson
Religious Education Coordinator

Have You Filled a Bucket Today?
Share
Listen
Be Kind
Take Turns
Smile
Help
Be Polite
Compliment
Include Others

Uniform Shop
Could parents please start thinking about their children’s winter uniform requirements, particularly those who have started with us this year and have not yet purchased any winter items. Paula Cotterill our Uniform Shop Coordinator will be in this Tuesday afternoon from 3pm if you would like to try items on for size, otherwise simply download the form from our website fill it in and send it in to the school office with payment.

Please remember to return the Panadol/Asthma and Student Access Agreement Forms this week.
Year 3/4 Publication Celebration

Epic Titan Battles for Freedom

I was in battle with evil Kaliboo. I attacked with fire field. Sam was in the battle but he died. We went back to Titan City. We ufed our mechsuits and charged our electric fire weapons. We had a huge meal and made a new electric fire weapon. I was an axe with a machete attached to the back of the axe. A girl called Allie joined the team, she got the new weapon. Our last battle was against lord Shirikia. First I used Fire ball machine gun, then Seb used Ultra Lazer and Allie used Lazer Ultra Fire Ball. lord Shirikia was dead. We are free!!!!!!

By William Naughton

February 2016

Will the Dragon

Once upon a time there was a monster with four legs, four wings and three heads with two eyes on each head. It was a dragon. The first head had blew ice, the second head blew fire and the third head blew water. The dragon’s name was Will. He was the second most powerful in the dragon world. The most powerful was King and Queen Dragon because the King and Queen dragon had seven heads. Each head blew water, fire, ice, gas, earth, lava and wind. The Queen and King dragon laid all the dragon eggs of dragons. Will wanted to go battle the King and Queen dragon. Will the dragon was going to journey to the Land of Knights. Will started to fly. Will started to cross over beach-land and his wings started to get sore. So Will stopped and rested. Will fell asleep. When Will woke up, a dragon wanted to challenge him to a battle. He was a water dragon. So Will battled him. It was Will’s go first. He sprayed water at him then Will froze the water dragon. Will started to fly so he did. This time Will flew even faster. Finally Will got there. Will challenged the King to a battle but the King and Queen were not there so Will went home.

Don Cotterill

February 2016

The Magic Family

Once upon a time there was a little girl named Sam and she was a Princess. She had a pet goat named Toby, which was a Prince goat. She had to kiss the goat to become a queen and the goat to become a king. Once she became a queen she had to have a daughter to stay alive or the guards would take her away from her family.

After a few years . . .

She did have a daughter and a son. He was named Liam and her daughter’s name was Charlotte. She went to St Pats, a good school. She had 3 best friends Abbey, Ally and Mychaela. It is an hour drive of Charlotte to get to school but Liam is only 2 so he stays at home with queen Sam. Sam has a boyfriend, king Toby. He works at a feed lot. Toby loves going there. It is a great place. His boss is Scotty, he is a good man. Toby has a best mate named Ben. The queen’s brother’s dog got bailed. They all cried. The queen’s brother had another dog called Achilles. He was a good dog who loved Charlotte and Liam. Queen Sam had a poddy calf, his name was Milo. He was a steer. He loved the queen. He was 2 years old. The magic family have to feed him a lot!!! They have to make a special type of milk because he cannot have their milk.

Charlotte Curtis

February 2016

The Witch That Destroyed The World

Once upon a time there was three children named Tom, Lochie and Hugh. They could do lots of magic spells. But there also was a witch that could do lots of spells.

One day the witch had sent a letter to them which said The world is going to end you can’t stop me. “What will we do?” said Lochie as he stood up toughly.

“I have a plan,” said Tom.” OK the plan is we will sneak into her house at night and use our magic to make the plan come to us.”

“But what if she kills me,” said Hugh very slow.

Sunday came and that was the day for the plan but it was too late and the world was going to blow up. So they used their magic to get out of there. Lochie forgot the spell and he died in action. The others went to another world and turned into donkeys and were ridden for fun.

That is how the witch destroyed the world.

Tom Scott

February 2016

THE END
**Class Merit Award Recipients**

**Week 5 of Term 1.**

**Kindergarten** - Gracie Peterson - for hearing beginning sounds in words.

**Year 1** - Lilly Cotterill - her knowledge of three dimensional shapes.

**Year 2** - Samuel Turck - carefully answering questions and thinking deeply about the text.

**Year 3/4** - Lillian McDonnell - working hard and independently in class.

**Year 5/6** - Lily Bartlett - reading with confidence and enthusiasm.

- William Bruce - an impressive and creative ANZAC writing piece.

**Wildcat Award Recipients**

**Week 5 of Term 1.**

**Responsible** Max Peterson, Locky Eccleston, Zac Scott, Zoe Naughton, Sophie Graham, Charlie Hindmarsh & James Reardon.

**Respectful** Max Ferguson, Mia Naughton, James Reardon & Joel Sharman

**Safe**

James Reardon & Hugh Ryan.

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**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

- Tuesday, 1 March - Archdiocesan Swimming Carnival - Queanbeyan
- Monday, 7 March - Winter Trials
- Wednesday, 16 March - NRL Gala Day
- Thursday, 17 March - St. Patrick’s Day
- Thursday, 24 March - St. Patrick’s Cross Country Carnival
- Friday, 25 March - Good Friday
- Saturday, 26 March - Easter Saturday
- Sunday, 27 March - Easter Sunday
- Monday, 28 March - Easter Monday
- Wednesday, 30 March - Michael Mangan - Whole School Performance 11am - 12pm
- Thursday, 31 March - Mackillop Swimming
- Monday, 4 April - Responsible Pet Talk Kindergarten and Year 1 11am
- Tuesday, 5 April - Western Region Cross Country - Adelong
- Friday, 8 April - Term 1 ends.
- Wednesday, 27 April - Term 2 begins

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**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.**

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**ROSTERS**

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<td>Liturgy 12pm</td>
<td>Zoe McDonnell &amp; Lochie Wilson</td>
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<td>George Harpley &amp; Don Cotterill</td>
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<td>Xavier Graham &amp; Hugh Graham</td>
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**Cakes**

Liz Kelleher
Bec Fiddes

**Cookies**

Suzie Sharman
Simone Jones

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