Dear Parents/Carers,

In this Sunday’s Gospel (Luke 13:1-9) we hear the parable Jesus told about the fig tree in the vineyard, how the owner was going to cut it down as it had not produced fruit, only to be persuaded by another man to leave it one more year whilst he fertilised it and nurtured it. Just like the fig tree received a second chance to bear fruit, so to do we find opportunities for growth, nurturance and blossoming this Lenten season by giving ourselves and one another time.

**Everything Has Its Time**

For everything there is a time:
for everything there is a season.

There is a reason for every time and for every season.

A time to begin, and a time to finish;
A time to act, and a time to stop acting;

A time to answer the phone, and a time to ignore it;
a time to speak to someone, and a time to let the situation go;
a time to remember a mistake, and a time to forget it:

a time to work, and a time to rest;
a time to speak up, and a time to remain silent;
a time to be concerned about an issue, and a time to let it pass;

a time to advise, and a time not to advise;
a time to have fun, and a time to get serious;
a time to chase up work, and a time to ignore work;

a time to remember, and a time to forget;
for every time there is a reason; for every season there is a time.

Do you ever feel that nothing you really need is there when you really need it? Living with that is called patience. During Lent we need to have patience and time.

We all need patience, especially as our lives get busier and busier. I’m sure we all have times when we just can’t wait. But it is in the waiting that we grow.

Mr Steven Jones
Principal
Enrolment forms can be found at the Church and School Office. Forms were handed out to the children who are going to make their Sacrament this year on Friday of last week. Thank you to those parents who send in their forms and payments early - you can be assured your preferred date is booked in. All dates and times will be confirmed at the Parent Information Evenings.

The order of the Sacraments of Initiation in the Diocese of Parramatta are: Baptism, Eucharist and then Confirmation.

Enrolment for Confirmation is available for children who are in Year 6 (or above) in 2013. Enrolment form must be lodged at Parish Office by Friday 15 March 2013.

Parent Information Evening: Tuesday 19 March at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre.

Enrolment for First Reconciliation is available for children who are in Year 3 (or above) in 2013. Enrolment forms must be lodged at Parish Office by Tuesday 28 June 2013.

Parent Information Evening: Tuesday 23 July at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre.

Enrolment for First Eucharist is available for children who are in Year 4 (or above) in 2013. Enrolment forms must be lodged at Parish Office by Friday 3 May 2013.

Parent Information Evening: Tuesday 21 May at 7:30pm in the Parish Centre.

Dear Parents

This year we are supporting Project Compassion. We would like, if you can, to give your Child/Children some money to put in the boxes in their classrooms.

This year we are trying to buy Chickens for Mozambique.
One Chicken costs $5.00. So far Year Five have bought the most with a total of 21 Chickens.

Together with all the school we have bought 63 Chickens.

Well done to all!!

We will be having a Gold Coin Collection day for Project Compassion on Friday 8 March 2013. All Children are required to come in Mufti clothing on that day.

School Leaders & Social Justice Team

We ask that Parents please be mindful of not parking in or across resident’s driveways in Bennett Street and adjoining streets. It is most inconvenient for them if they need to exit and cannot find the owner of the vehicle to ask them to move it.

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OLMC Netball Club is now taking registrations for the 2013 season. Our Club belongs to the Parramatta and Auburn Netball Association (PANA). We play each Saturday morning at the NSW State Netball Courts at Auburn. This year’s competition commences on 27 April 2013. Training is held for one hour, one afternoon per week at the school court. If your child is interested in playing Netball please contact Linda Wykes 0414 591 010, Margaret Nolan 0405 509 253 or Leonie Barnes 0408 410 790.

The Zone Swimming Carnival was held at Parramatta pool last Thursday. Congratulations to all the students who participated on the day. They conducted themselves very admirably and a great day was had by all.


Thank you to all the Parents who attended on the day to support their children and also helped out. A special thanks to Mrs Dasey and Mr Shumack whose help was most appreciated and without their assistance the event would not have run as well as it did. So thanks again.

Over the past couple of days parents have had the opportunity to meet with their child’s teacher for this year. The parents have shared their understanding of their child’s learning.

The teachers have found the information shared by parents to be extremely valuable as they plan for learning this year. Thank you for all who came to strengthen the link between home and school in the education of their child/ren.

Both the P&F general meeting and Annual General Meeting took place last Wednesday evening at school.

The minutes for both meetings will be available soon from the school office for anyone who is interested.

At the AGM, a new committee was voted and a list of names and positions will be posted in the next newsletter.

Parents Representative Council
The Parents Representative Council is hosting an evening of information on Tips for the Teenage Tightrope: How to Navigate and Negotiate the Adolescent Years this Monday 4 March at 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

All parents are welcome to attend this informative evening at the Aengus Kavanagh Centre Railway Street, Mount Druitt.

Fete raffle donations
With our fete date fast approaching (5 April 2013), we are seeking additional prize donations from businesses.

If anyone has any new/unused items or any business has goods or services they are willing to donate, it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact Suzanne Stanton as soon as possible on 0414 802 801.

We currently have a shortage of Second Hand Sports Uniforms in our Second Hand Uniform Shop.

We would be very grateful for any donations of Sports uniforms and School uniforms which are no longer required by your child/children.

Join parents, educators and guest speakers for the 10th Catholic Schools Parent Conference on 25-26 May 2013 at the Novotel Hotel, Parramatta. The theme for the 2013 conference is iConnect with Learning, in Partnership, in Faith and focuses on technology as a communication, learning and social networking tool. To register visit http://www.ccsp.catholic.edu.au/

The St Vincent de Paul Society in the Diocese of Parramatta is calling for volunteers willing to make a difference to their community by sharing their time, knowledge and encouragement to people exiting prison. Volunteers will be thoroughly trained for their roles to operate in ‘circles’ of 4-6 people to support prisoners exiting the corrective environment. To learn how you can get involved, come along to an information morning at 10am on Saturday 9 March at the St Vincent de Paul Diocesan Office, Level 4, 73-75 Dunmore St, Wentworthville. To learn more and RSVP please call Vinnies (02) 9689 1900.
On Monday, Stage Two and Stage Three students were visited by some of the players from the Parramatta Eels. They came to present a talk on Tackling Bullying.

They showed us a great film showing all different ways people can be bullied at school.

Matt Ryan said that at school he was never picked in teams and was left out. His friend said that whilst he wasn’t bullied he didn’t always stand up and say “STOP” if someone was being bullied.

We also talked about being healthy and playing sport to be physically active.

It was a great afternoon.

Thank you to Parramatta Eels for taking the time out to talk to us about Bullying.

On Monday afternoon some players came from the Parramatta Eels to talk to us about bullying. Their message was all about how to be a good friend, and not to bully others. They said that it was important not to be a bystander, that that’s just as bad as being a bully.

Tristan

It was a good afternoon. They showed us a clip of their playing football, and also all about bullying and not to be rude to others.

Monica

The Parramatta Eels came to OLMC to talk to us about tackling bullying. I learnt that if you are not ok with bullying you can wear a piece of string around your wrist. We also learnt that you need to stand up for your friends and not to be a bystander and that means you stand by and do not do anything about it. You need to tell someone if you are being bullied.

Sarah C

I learnt that bullying can hurt peoples feelings and that it is something bad to do.

Miriam.