Dear Parents

WAY OF MERCY

In this Jubilee Year of Mercy we have been given many opportunities to read the Scriptures, pray and complete works of mercy. Next week as a school and Parish community we have another opportunity to participate in the Way of Mercy.

The Way of Mercy is an initiative of our Diocese to enable all parishes and schools to gather as a faith community and to celebrate the Mercy of our God. This gathering will have some very powerful visual reminders of the loving mercy of Jesus.

The first will be a large Cross of Mercy that was used in 1990 by Richmond parish during their Parish Mission. This is a very large cross that has become a focal point during the Easter ceremonies.

The second and third visual reminders are relics of St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop) and Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata (who will be canonised on the 5 September 2016). These relics include strands of hair from Mary MacKillop and a handwritten message from Mother Teresa given by her to Father Paul Roberts. Her message reads:

The fruit of silence is prayer
The fruit of prayer is faith
The fruit of faith is love
The fruit of love is service.

During our liturgy for the Way of Mercy children, parents and parishioners will be given an opportunity to venerate the Cross. Veneration is a very old Catholic ritual that can be dated through ancient writings to the 4th century. Veneration of the cross involves the congregation moving forwards to the Cross; bowing and/or kneeling and touching/kissing the Cross. It is symbolic, it does not mean that we are adoring an object, but rather what it represents... the great love and mercy shown to us by God sacrificing His Son for our salvation. By kneeling or bowing and touching or kissing the Cross, we are paying the highest honour to Our Lord, in our true humility.

The community present at our Way of Mercy Liturgy may also venerate the relics of the saints displayed. The Church states that only relics of saints may be venerated and we will have the newest saint in the Church with us next Tuesday!! Relics of saints being venerated are part of our rich Church doctrine: they remind us of the everlasting life that is a possibility for us, the truth of the Resurrection of the Body for all persons on the last day, the respect and dignity that should be accorded to all as we are made in the image and likeness of God, our belief in the intercessory power of these saints because of their special place in heaven and lastly a visible connection and closeness with the communion of saints.

Our Way of Mercy Liturgy will take place next Tuesday 6 September at 9.45am, in the Church. All parents, parishioners and friends are most welcome to join us.

We look forward to seeing many parents at our Liturgy.

Bernadette Nolan
Religious Education Coordinator
DID YOU KNOW…………..?
Fathers’ Day can be traced back to the early 1990’s. It is a day to honour Fathers or those who have a paternal role. We base our Catholic tradition on the role model of Joseph “foster father” of Jesus. The values of trust, love, respect, dignity, protection are embodied in him. We also reflect on the relationship Jesus had with His heavenly Father, and His willingness to do what was asked of Him.

BE MERCIFUL LIKE THE FATHER.

A SPECIAL EVENT THIS WEEKEND!!!
Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkata will be canonised this weekend in Rome. She will officially be known as SAINT MOTHER TERESA OF KOLKATA. The canonisation ceremony will be live streamed to St Patrick’s Cathedral Parramatta and to St Mary’s Cathedral, see their websites for times. We join as a community of faith to celebrate this special event and to honour a remarkable merciful woman.

School Fees
A reminder that Term 3 School Fees accounts are now overdue. Thank you to all parents who have finalised their accounts for 2016. Should you be experiencing Financial Hardship and are unable to finalise your account please contact the school office to make a confidential appointment with Mr Jones.

PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE
Last week the Premier’s Reading Challenge for 2016 came to an end. We are thrilled to announce that we achieved our goal of 100% completion of the challenge!! Each child in Kindergarten to Year 2 read 30 books each totaling 5,280; while the children in Year 3 to Year 6 read 20 books each totaling 4,160. This means an amazing 9,440 books were read this year to complete the Premier’s Reading Challenge.

Congratulations to the children who completed the challenge this week; Lincoln, Emilie, Elijah, Angelina, Orlando, Kathiravan, Damon, Emmanuel, Gianluca, Anok, Cheyenne, Jaydon, Louisa, Rafka, Aaron, Ruby, William, Sarah, Jayden , Marcus, Alannah, Mark, Jayden, Raphael, Natalie, Sophia, Jewel, Nedhal, Leila, Achol, Mary, Monica, Logan, Arty, Duang, Myah, Denver, Clarissa, Naveena, Harshil, Manya, Marlon, Michael, Tristan, Thomas, Adriana, Samir, Giulio, Royel, Alicia, Keira-Lee, Hannah and Joseph.

LOST PROPERTY-SCHOOL UNIFORM ITEMS
We currently have about 30 sports jackets and jumpers in our lost property cupboard located outside the staffroom. Unfortunately most of them have no name on them, therefore they cannot be given back to the student who owns them. We ask that parents please ensure that all uniform items have a name on them. We ask parents to come and check the cupboards, otherwise the clothing will go to our Second Hand Uniform shop.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY (PUPIL FREE DAY)
Our next Staff Development Day will be on Monday 5 September 2016. Please mark this date in your calendars. There will be no school for students on this day.
NETBALL GALA DAY

Our Netball Gala Day was a fun, supportive and fair day. We had wonderful, fantastic coaches and parents. The coaches and parents helped us play as a team. We would like to give a big thanks to the parents and teachers who cooperated fairly with us. We would also like to thank Mrs Meares who prepared this whole day for us, it was amazing! It was also fun even though we didn't win, we played as a team and supported each other in whatever things we did.

By Bianka & Rachelle

PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Fathers’ Day Stall
Thank you to everyone who came on Wednesday to help with the Fathers’ Day Stall. We appreciate your help in providing this service for our children. Thank you to everyone who has donated prizes for the Fathers’ Day Raffle, your support is truly appreciated. We have some wonderful prizes this year. There is still time to send back your raffle tickets and money before the raffle is drawn on Friday morning at the Fathers’ Day Breakfast.

The Father's Day raffle prizes are:
- First Prize: Triton multi tool and reciprocating saw (valued at $200) donated by the Farah family
- Second Prize: 100ml Boss aftershave by Hugo Boss
- Third Prize: $50 Dan Murphy's Voucher
- Fourth Prize: $50 eftpos card
- Fifth Prize: $50 Wenty Leagues Voucher
- Sixth Prize: $50 Wenty Leagues Voucher
- Seventh Prize: $30 Master’s Voucher

Tickets are 50 cents each. Please write the name and contact number of the person buying the ticket and the name and class of the child who sold it on the ticket stub and return all tickets and money to school.

P&F Outdoor Movie Night 16 September 2016
P&F’s outdoor movie night has this year been scheduled for Friday 16 September at 6pm in the Smith Street playground. We are excited to announce that we will be watching Zootopia!! Meal deal offers will come home next week.

Netball News
Congratulations to our OLMC 2 (11s) team. They made it to the final and were narrowly defeated by one point in extra time. Well done on a remarkable effort girls!

Good luck to OLMC 3 (10s) and OLMC 4 (8s) for their final game this weekend. Farewell OLMC 1 (12s) who have played together for 4 years. We hope you keep playing in high school!

Thanks to all the girls who play, coach, manage and umpire for a fantastic season. Thanks also to Paula Epenian for running the club and organising everything so efficiently. We are all very grateful. See you all at the presentation day 6 November.

Mrs Danielle Gardner

Getting our Fete on!
As you may know by now, our fete has been scheduled for Friday 24 March 2017. This is our major fundraising event and we are calling on anyone who is able to help by: volunteering during the fete, even if it is for an hour.

We are still looking for coordinators for the following stalls:
- Fruit salad marquee
- Drinks and snow cones, Sippah Milk booth
- Trash & Treasure
- Dunk Tank
- Pick-a-number bottle stall

If you can help in any way, we would love to hear from you. Please email us at olmcfete@gmail.com.

This column is compiled by P&F Communications. If you have any queries or wish to contribute, please email olmcfwenty@parra.catholic.edu.au and attention it to P&F Communications.
On Sunday, the Tournament of Minds Team - Sarah D, Sebastian S, Fabian S, Cheyenne B, Jacinta A, Aiza R & Damon T - went to UWS in Kingswood to compete against 13 other schools.

There was a long term challenge which we had 6 weeks to prepare for and a spontaneous challenge which we received on the day just before we presented it.

Our school won an Honours Award which is the equivalent of second place. Congratulations to our team!

The whole experience has been fun and we have learnt lots of new things. We have all enjoyed spending time together as a team and preparing our presentation altogether.