



Dear St Michael's Families and Friends

HOLY WEEK

This Sunday we celebrate Palm Sunday symbolising the beginning of Holy week. There is a message for each of us in every event of Holy Week, and we start by remembering how Jesus was welcomed by a crowd of excited followers who waved tree branches as a sign of welcome to Jerusalem. A few days later on Holy Thursday Jesus gave His followers the celebration of the Eucharist at the Last Supper. **How often do we follow Jesus' request to 'Do this in memory of me' and celebrate the Eucharist?**

In the garden after Supper, Jesus' friends fell asleep, one disciple betrayed him and another denied even knowing him; then Jesus was arrested. **So Jesus knew what it was like to have friends that disappoint!**



Jesus suffered the humiliation of a trial and ridicule. Instead of defending himself he silently accepted the taunts and untruths that were being said about him. **How confident are we of our own worth or do we constantly have to defend ourselves to others?**

Jesus had the long journey to Calvary, carrying his own cross. Along the way he met his mother and friends. He did not ask for their sympathy, he did not look for compassion. Even at this time of suffering and loneliness Jesus prayed for them. **This was total self-sacrifice. How do we respond when we are called to be self-less?**

Along the way Simon was asked to help Jesus to carry the cross. Do I help others to bear their cross? **Or am I inclined to say that if they get themselves into a mess then they should carry their own load?**

Jesus died, a lonely and painful death on a cross, He gave His all for us! **But, there was still Easter Sunday to come!**

We encourage all families to take some time to participate in the Easter ceremonies in the Church over the Easter weekend and use the reminders above to ensure Easter is not only about chocolate and rabbits - although we acknowledge the excitement of this aspect. Please see the timetable for our Easter Liturgies below:

Thursday 24th March

Kindergarten - Palm Sunday 10:30am Hall
Year 3 and 4 - Washing of the Feet and Last Supper 11:40am Hall
Year 5 and 6 - Good Friday 2:15pm Hall

Tuesday 29th March

Year 1 and 2 - Resurrection 10:00am Hall

OPEN MEETING

We had a very successful open Council meeting on Tuesday evening and I thank all those who were in attendance, including those parents who have volunteered to take on the very important role of parent representatives for each class as part of the PRN for 2016. It is our aim to hold further parent evenings where we can share aspects of the way things work at school or areas of parent support, in our ongoing goal of working in partnership with parents. Please let me know if there is a topic you feel would be useful for parents; eg the way we teach Maths; cyber safety.

Thought for the week

'Act justly, Love mercifully, Walk humbly with your God' Micah 6:8

Yours in partnership
Judy

IMPORTANT DATES AND EVENTS

- 18/3/16 Assembly 3/4B @ 12.50
- 21/3/16 Harmony Day
- 22/3/16 Dancecore
- 24/3/16 Holy Week Liturgies
- 29/3/16 Michael Mangan Concert
Dancecore
Easter Liturgy @ 10am
- 30/3/16 Yr 5/6 Camp
- 31/3/16 Yr 5/6 Camp
- 1/4/16 Yr 5/6 Camp
- 1/4/16 WSPT 3/4W @ 12.50
- 3/4/16 Catholic Schools Soccer Carnival
Commitment Mass First Eucharist
@ 5:30pm
- 4/4/16 Healthy Harold
3 Ways
- 5/4/16 Dancecore
3 Ways
- 6/4/16 3 Ways
- 7/4/16 3 Ways
- 8/4/16 St Michael's Cross Country carnival
Dancecore Assembly @ 12.50
- 15/5/16 Sacrament of First Eucharist
@ 5:30pm
- 10/6/16 Grandparent's/Good Friend's Day
- 10/8/16 Sacrament of Confirmation
- 9/11/16 Sacrament of Reconciliation

Notes gone home this week

- Parish Easter Services note
- Holiday Happenings
- Cross Country & Sausage Sizzle notes
- Bullying. No Way! Cards
- NAPLAN Information - Years 3 & 5
- Harmony Day Information note



Holy Week

Harmony Happenings

BELCONNEN REGION SWIMMING CARNIVAL

If your child has qualified to represent our school at the Belconnen Region Swimming Carnival on **Thursday 24th March** and they would like to participate they should have returned their note and money to school yesterday. Please note that if you are planning to be a spectator on the day there is a \$2 admission fee.

CROSS COUNTRY

The St Michael's Cross Country Carnival is being held on **Friday 8th April** (Week 10). We have started some training with the students, so please feel free to encourage them to get outside and run their little legs off at home if you like. A note with information about this day has gone home this week. If you would like to assist us with this carnival please fill in the slip at the bottom of the note. There will also be a sausage sizzle lunch on the day, please return your orders by 31st March. We would love to see you there.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SOCCER CARNIVAL SUNDAY 3RD APRIL

Miss Peterson and Mrs McPadden are finalising teams for this event. At this stage there will be three 3/4 teams and two 5/6 teams. We think we have enough students for all of these teams now. Thank you for your assistance with this. Please watch this space for any further details relating to this carnival.

NAPLAN

The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy will be conducted in Years 3 and 5. The testing dates will include:

Tuesday 10 May – Language Conventions (40 mins) and Writing (40 mins)

Wednesday 11 May – Reading (Yr 3 - 45 mins/Yr 5 - 50 mins)

Thursday 12 May – Numeracy (Yr 3 - 45 mins/Yr 5 - 50 mins)

More information for parents will be sent home with the school newsletter today. If you have any questions or concerns, please see your classroom teacher or contact Breen via breen.fox@cg.catholic.edu.au.

NATIONAL DAY AGAINST BULLYING – MARCH 18TH

BULLYING. NO WAY! March 18 aims to raise awareness that bullying and violence is never okay, in or outside the classroom.

Parents will receive a Parent Information Card and Student Pocket Card tomorrow, to provide tips about talking to your child about bullying.

A range of materials and other resources are available at

www.bullyingnoway.gov.au



HARMONY DAY 21 MARCH 2016 – wear a coloured shirt!

All students will participate in rotational activities to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. Activities will include interactive information from the National Day Against Bullying, cooperative games, creative arts and multicultural sports. Students are invited to wear their sports uniform with a coloured t-shirt to form a rainbow. To ensure we have an even distribution of colour, we ask each Year Level to wear an allocated colour:

Kinder – purple

Year 1 – blue

Year 2 – green

Year 3 – yellow

Year 4 – orange

Year 5/6 – red



INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS entries close **Thursday 24th March 2016**

ICAS provide opportunities for all students to gain a measure of their own achievements in external assessment situations. *The competition date and entry fee for each competition is:*

Digital Technologies	Tuesday 17 May	\$8.80
Science	Tuesday 31 May	\$8.80
Writing	Monday 13 June	\$18.80
Spelling	Wednesday 15 June	\$12.10
English	Tuesday 2 August	\$8.80
Mathematics	Tuesday 16 August	\$8.80

Please note: There is a minimum of three participants per competition per school. If there are less than three entries, that competition will be closed and the entry fee will be refunded.

These competitions are open for students from **Years Three to Six**. If you wish for your child to participate in any of the ICAS please complete the slip that can be found on the school website under

Communication/Attachments/Permission notes and return it and payment to the office by **Thursday 24th March 2016**.

No late entries will be considered.



PRNs

All parent representatives received their class email lists at the Open Community Council meeting this week. They will be in touch with you very soon. Thank you to all of our representatives for strengthening and supporting communication and relationships between school and home.

EARTH HOUR MARCH 19 @ 8:30PM

Earth Hour is a revolutionary movement completely powered by you – your ideas, interests, ambitions and actions. Whilst Earth Hour encompasses turning off lights as a symbolic gesture for the places we love, there is a great cause to go beyond just 'lights out'. Switching off is only the beginning of the movement towards changing the conversation around climate change.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Special wishes to those children who celebrate their birthdays this week:

Eamon 1/2S, Tamika 3/4F, Elise KD,
Mason 5/6M and Massimo 5/6P

We hope you have a great day!

