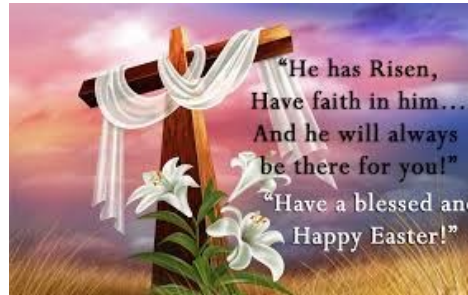




Dear Parents and Friends of St Mary MacKillop School,

Our school constantly strives to be:

A Christ centered community which challenges students to develop their unique gifts and talents through a supportive partnership of school, parents and parish.



**Wishing everyone in our community a Holy Easter and a safe, fun holiday time.
From the team at St Mary MacKillop**

I have included a letter sent from Bishop Vincent for your reflection during this Easter Season

An Easter 2021 Message from Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv, Bishop of Parramatta

“Go and tell my brothers and I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God”.

My dear friends,

At Easter, we hear these words of the Risen Lord who empowers Mary of Magdala to overcome fear and to proclaim the Good News to others. She is known as an apostle to the apostles.

But it was not just Mary of Magdala who had a pivotal role in the early days of Christianity. Throughout salvation history, women disciples have played a critical part in forging a new future out of the hopeless present. Puah and Shiprah acted as catalysts for the exodus by their civil disobedience.

Esther boldly intervened for her people at the foreign court. Ruth broke new ground of inclusion as a consummate outsider. Mary MacKillop, of course, started a new and hitherto unheralded group of women who took the Good News to the edges of Australian society.

If the Church is to be faithful to the biblical narrative and responsive to the living presence of God, it must reclaim a discipleship of equals and empower men and women disciples to share their gifts for human flourishing and the growth of the Kingdom.

At the heart of the Easter message is the summons to a new future, framed with hope and possibility, in the midst of entrenched hopelessness. As with Mary and the disciples, who were emboldened to move from the shadows of crucifixion into the light and life of the Risen Christ, the Church must live this message.

It must embody the alternative relational paradigm that is rooted in the radical inclusivity, mutuality, compassion and the powerlessness of Jesus. We cannot have a better future if we persist in the age-old but dying paradigm of triumphalism, elitism, male supremacy and clerical dominance.

The Gospel speaks of the bewilderment and disillusionment of the disciples as they were confronted with an empty tomb. Perhaps, their experience was not unique. Many also go searching for Jesus in the Church and instead find it empty and void of what they thirst for.

It is incumbent on us especially as leaders to make the Church into a place where people can meet and experience the Risen Lord. We must not remain a closed system. For we encounter the living Christ beyond the known boundaries of our worldview. We meet him as a community of seekers of truth, meaning and ultimate concern. More importantly, we witness to him in our acts of solidarity, communion and service to the common good.

This transition time calls us to grieve before we can emerge cleansed, renewed and transformed. Mary wept at the sight of the empty tomb. We too must grieve for those whose experience has been one of exclusion, instead of an encounter of radical love, inclusiveness, and solidarity.

Pope Francis recently called on the Christian communities to sow seeds of love instead of issuing theoretical condemnations.

In the spirit of conversion, the Church here in Parramatta has embarked upon a Review of Governance with a view to improving governance practices and implementing key principles for a more synodal and “bottom-up” ecclesiology. The time has come for us not only to admit the need for change but to discern together as to what the process and the agenda for change should look like going forward.

Brothers and sisters,

In the face of painful transition, let us be empowered by the presence of the Risen Lord, calling us beyond the fear of the unknown. The paschal rhythm summons us to a discipleship of humility, weakness and vulnerability, of dying and rising in Christ.

We must die to the old ways of being Church abandoning the old paradigm of a fortress Church, prone to exclusivity and elitism. Instead, we learn to rise to Christlike ways of humility, inclusiveness, compassion.

May we be strengthened to walk the journey of faith and we may be leavened to the Kingdom through our active discipleship, witness, and engagement in the world. Let us have the courage of Mary and be truly Easter men and women bringing to life the Good News in our Church and our world.

Have a blessed Easter.

Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta

Parents and Friends
Annual General Meeting
Wednesday 28th April
7:30pm School Hall

After a year without our normal Parents and Friends operation, we are starting back up again in Term 2. We did not get to hold our AGM in Term 4 last year and will need to elect our 2021 executive team at this meeting.

Also the school is seeking your advice around our ‘half yearly report’ format. We had to make massive changes to the 2020 half yearly report to account for remote learning and we now need to determine what the 2021 half yearly report should look like. What do you need to know about your child at the half year mark? Come along to this meeting and let me know.

Together We Grow.

Mr Scott Buchan – Principal

Sports Days Term 2
Mondays- Year 3 and Year 4
Tuesdays- Year 5, Year 6 and Year 1
Wednesdays- Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2.

Religious Education News

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Congratulations to the following students who made their

First Reconciliation on Thursday 25th March:

Alexander B, Amelia B, Emmie B, Samuel B, Jude B, Christopher B, Chase B, Lila B, Hugh C, Valentino C, Olivia D, Michael F, Ruby G, Ava H, Joel H, Mila H, Jack J, Jacob J, Riley K, Jordan L, Jai M, Molly Mc, Grayson M, Thomas M, Aoife M, Guiseppe M, Latoya M, Ashton N, Lucas N, Spencer P, Gabriella P, Ava P, Sophie P, Luka R, Anneliese R, Levi R, Finn R, Noah R, Alexis S, Olivia S, Eliza S, Bailey S, Emily S, Isaac S, Braiden S, Jack V, Capri W, Hunter W, Jacob X and Joshua X.



Faith In Action - Lids for Kids



Please continue to support the Lids for Kids initiative that is being promoted by the Faith In Action Team (FIAT) and RE team..... As a community, we will be collecting bottle top lids to support the Lids for Kids organisation. This is an organisation that turns bottle lids into prosthetic limbs for those in need.

To help support Lids for Kids, we are asking each grade to begin collecting bottle top lids. These will be collected at school for the rest of the term and into next term. The grade who collects the most bottle top lids will be rewarded with a prize so get collecting!

The kinds of bottle tops we are after:



Please watch the below link for more information :

<https://www.facebook.com/Lids4KidsAU/videos/459248928202140/>

Thank you very much for all your support in helping this great organisation.

FIAT and RE Team

Ms Neilsen and Ms Wotherspoon



Holy Week is the last week of Lent. We enter this week (beginning Sunday 28th March - Palm Sunday) knowing that it is a week made forever “holy” by the self-surrendering love of Jesus for us.

All week, we remember how he loved us. Whatever we do, no matter how busy or “distracted” we might be, we cannot let the power of this week be in the background of our thoughts. Jesus entered into our life, with its profound joys and heart breaking sadness, so that we might never experience those struggles alone.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and concludes with Easter Sunday. It recalls the last week in the life of Jesus Christ. The sacred events of Holy Week are:

Palm Sunday (28th March) - Commemorates the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem that was marked by the crowds who were in Jerusalem for Passover waving palm branches and proclaiming him as the king. This Sunday is also known as Passion Sunday to commemorate Jesus’ final agonizing journey to the cross.



Holy Thursday (1st April) - There are a variety of events that are clustered on this last day before Jesus was arrested. These include Jesus’ and disciples last meal together, the institution of Eucharist, the washing of the feet, the betrayal by Judas and Jesus praying in Gethsemane while the disciples fell asleep.



Religious Education News—Continued

Good Friday (2nd April) - On this day, we remember Jesus' arrest, his trial, crucifixion and suffering, death, and burial. Since services on this day are to observe Jesus' death, and since Eucharist is a celebration, there is traditionally no Communion observed on Good Friday.



Easter Sunday (4th April) – On Easter Sunday we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ who was raised from the dead, three days after his death on the cross. Through his death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus paid the penalty for sin, thus purchasing for all who believe in him, eternal life.



May everyone have a Holy and happy Easter

Sacramental Program - First Holy Communion

Preparation for the Sacrament of 1st Holy Communion will commence with a **parent meeting** on **Tuesday 27th April 2021 at 7.00pm.**

If you wish to enrol your child in this program it is essential that at least one parent/carer attend. This meeting will be held in the St Nicholas of Myra Church. To be eligible for First Holy Communion, **children must be in Year 4 or above and must be baptised**

All enquiries to Rodney Howard at St Nicholas of Myra Parish

Ph: 4721 2509

Email: sacramental@stnicholasofmyra.org.au



Mrs Gillard
Religious Education Coordinator

School Fees

Instalment 1 School Fees are now overdue. If you already have paid your fees, thank you. All overdue school fees should now be paid or under an arrangement.

If you are having any difficulties in paying your school fees please contact our Senior Finance Officer, Mrs Monique Kearins on 4724 3200 to discuss.

School Office hours are 8:30am – 3:30pm. All payments and enquiries can be made during this time. Payments through the office can be paid by **EFTPOS**. When paying by BPay, Bpoint & Post BillPay please use the current statement. Details are located on the bottom of the statement.

We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm.

Leaving Students

A term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable. The notice can be given any time during term for the next term. Where appropriate notice has been received a pro-rata credit can be calculated based on a pro-rata 40 week year. One exception is that notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following years' enrolment i.e. the notice period of 10 school weeks will be waived in this circumstance. If you know your child will be leaving at the end of the year, please advise the school as soon as possible.

Afternoon Pick Up

Please pick up all children at 3pm across the road in the park. Do not come into the playground to collect your child or take them from lines as this creates safety issues for our children.

The teacher on duty will bring any children who are not collected from the park by 3.05pm up to the school playground onto our waiters line.

If your child is on waiters, they can be collected from the playground between 3.10pm—3.30pm

Dates for Your Diary Term 1 - 2021

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Thursday	1 April	11:30am	Stations of the Cross Last Day of School for Students
Friday	2 April		Good Friday

Dates for Your Diary Term 2 - 2021

DAY	DATE	TIME	EVENT
Monday	19 April		First Day of Term 2 Commences
Tuesday	27 April	7pm	Year 2 Pioneer Village Excursion First Holy Communion Parent Meeting
Tuesday	4 May		Diocesan Cross Country

KiDS CAN ACT APRIL HOLIDAY WORKSHOPS

THURSDAY 15th APRIL SPRINGWOOD FULLDAY DISCOUNT RATE AVAILABLE	FRIDAY 16th APRIL SPRINGWOOD	REMEMBER TO USE YOUR \$100 CREATIVE KIDS VOUCHER
PAINT/ACT The Magic Paintbrush (4 - 15yrs) 8.30-1.30pm	ROLE PLAY/ACT/STORYTELLING All The Lost Things (4 - 15yrs) 8.30-1.30pm	
ROLE PLAY/ACT Drama Games & Scenarios (4 - 15 yrs) 1.30 - 5.30pm	FOR OLDER STUDENTS Comedy Skit Day (9-16 yrs) 1.30-6.30pm	

www.kidscanact.com.au 0414 475 158

KiDS CAN ACT APRIL HOLIDAY WORKSHOP DESCRIPTIONS

The Magic Paintbrush (4 - 15yrs) **PAINT/ACT**
Thursday April 15th 8.30-1.30pm
 Based on a traditional Chinese story in which a child is given a magic paintbrush which brings everything that is painted to life. When a greedy Emperor hears of the magic brush, he demands that the child paint him a tree of golden coins. Find out how the Emperor is outwitted. Today the children will paint their own magic pictures that will come to life through drama.

Scenarios & Drama Games (4 - 15 yrs.) **ROLE PLAY/ACT**
Thursday April 15th 1.30pm-5.30pm
 Great fun, where children get to work in groups or individually and be creative. Working as a team improves friendships and teaches us how to work with, co-operate, develop leadership skills and listen to others.

All the Lost Things (4 - 15yrs) **ROLE PLAY/ACT/STORYTELLING**
Friday April 16th 8.30am- 1.30pm
 What happened to that missing sock? Where is that jumper that you wore to school and disappeared from the face of the Earth? Who is playing with that toy you lost when you were 5? What if I told you these things weren't lost at all but had been taken to a secret place? Who would take such things and why? Spend a day solving the mystery of this strange world and see if you can return your lost things into their rightful homes. Focus on story telling techniques and character creation.

Comedy Skit Day (9-15yrs) **FOR OLDER STUDENTS**
Friday April 16th 1.30-6.30pm
 Love humour? Think you are funny? This day is perfect for you! Come have fun as you work together in groups to put together and perform some hilarious skits.

Owner reserves the right to cancel any workshops that do not have the required number to operate.

www.kidscanact.com.au 0414 475 158

After School Drama Classes

WEDNESDAYS

St Mary MacKillop Hall

Classes start
back Term 2
Wed 28th APRIL
8 week term.



KiDS CAN ACT

DRAMA STUDIO

Ask about a
2 WEEK
TRIAL
Enrolment required

Super Kids (K-Yr2) 3.15pm
Cool Kids (Yr3-Yr7) 4.15pm
 Supervision available from 3.00pm -5.15pm if required

www.kidscanact.com.au

Mrs Cathie Parkes- 0414 475 158

All enquiries & enrolments are to be through the website above. NOT school office.

Is this safe?



PEANUT AND TREE NUT ALLERGY AWARE SCHOOL



- DO NOT **SHARE** FOOD
- **WASH HANDS**
AFTER SNACK AND MEAL TIMES.
- **ASK QUESTIONS** IF YOU ARE UNSURE
OF "SAFE" FOODS.
- READ **ALL** INGREDIENT LABELS.

B E Y O N D
A PEANUT
FOOD ALLERGY AWARENESS PRODUCTS

www.beyondapeanut.com
1-877-ALRG-TIP (257-4847)

Thank you
for helping us
provide a safe environment
for our friends with food allergies!