



# NEWSLETTER

Term 1 | Issue 5 | 7 April 2020

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we have approached the end of the term, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of your children as they made the transition to remote learning. We did manage to celebrate Catholic Schools Week, which was a wonderful celebration of our Catholic Community and the faith we share together. As we approach uncertain times, may we draw strength from our faith and each other. We promoted acts of "Kindness" toward others, in a time when kindness is needed most!

We know that a model of remote learning will continue into Term 2 and we will keep you updated with any changes as we receive them. Remote learning will begin again on **Monday 27th April**. *This will be when the teachers will be posting learning opportunities for the children in their Google Classrooms.*

I wish you a very safe, healthy and blessed Easter.

***Easter means that nothing can keep us from the joy that God wants to give us. Nothing can steal that joy away. Sure, at times we will struggle just as Jesus did in the Agony of the Garden and the Via Dolorosa (the Way of the Cross), but those sufferings will not win. The Resurrection won with Christ and it will win with us when we cling to Him. Jesus persevered and, in the end, rose victorious. This is Easter!***

<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com>

Yours in education,

Sarah O'Rourke  
Principal



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION YOU NEED TO KNOW...

### **SCHOOL PHOTO DAY**

A change has been made to accommodate School Photos. The new date is **Monday 26th October**.

### **ENROLMENTS**

We continue to take new Enrolments for 2021. Please download an Enrolment Form and return with accompanying documentation via the school's email ([corpuschristi@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:corpuschristi@parra.catholic.edu.au)) as soon as possible. We aim to hold interviews with families later in the year. We thank you for your understanding regarding the changes to this process.



### **Staff Development Days for 2020:**

Friday 3rd July 2020  
and  
Friday 28th August 2020

**These days will be for Staff only.**

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Parents,

### **Faith Formation**

**Mt 26:14 – 27:66 The Passion**

*Who are the people who love you?  
What special things do they do for you?  
Jesus suffered and died because he loved us.  
How can we show God's love to others?  
Today is the beginning of a special week of celebrations.  
How can we participate in Holy Week?*



### **Holy Thursday**

**Jn 13:1-15 Jesus washes the feet of his disciples**

When Jesus washes the feet of his disciples, at one level he is simply observing one of the rules of hospitality. It was an obligation on a host to provide water for guests to wash the dust and dirt from their feet. Jesus goes one step further and actually washes their feet himself – in effect, he assumes the role of a household servant. Small acts of kindness and service for another person honour that person and demonstrate our respect for them. When we perform such acts we are being Christ-like ourselves but we are also acknowledging Christ's presence in the other.

### **Children's discussion starters**

*What are some of the different types of bread that you have tasted?  
At what meals do you eat bread?  
Jesus shared a meal with his friends. He asks us, his friends, to share this sacred meal.  
What did Jesus do to the feet of his disciples?  
Why did Jesus wash the feet of his disciples?  
Jesus wanted to show them that he came to serve so that they could copy him.  
We are Jesus' friends. How can we be of service to others?*

### **Living the Gospel**

Illustrate (through drawing or collage) the foot-washing scene from the gospel but replace the disciples with images of those in the community most in need of support and service.



### **Good Friday** **Gospel**

**Jn 18:1 – 19:42 The Passion narrative.**

### **Children's discussion starters**

*Can you think of people who suffer?  
When you see a cross what does it mean to you?  
Do you think about Jesus' suffering and death as well as his victory over death?  
Why did Jesus suffer and die?  
Jesus died and rose to save us and give us the promise of life with him forever.*

**We pray:**

*That the cross may be a sign of hope for all, especially those who are suffering and in need.*

**Lord hear us.**

*For Pope Francis and all priests as they bring words of hope, comfort and support to all those who are experiencing suffering and loss at this time. May he be strengthened in his work of inspiring others to reach out in love and compassion to the sick, the vulnerable and those isolated in our world.*

**Lord hear us.**

*For our National and State leaders who are working hard to encourage the human community to collectively embrace the task of saving lives and livelihoods. May they be sustained with all the energy and vision that is required at this critical time.*

**Lord hear us.**

*For all those throughout the world who are working in the front line of the Covid -19 pandemic. In the care of the sick they risk their bodies for the sake of the lives of others. May they receive the strength and insight needed to minister with skill and compassion.*

**Lord hear us.**

Take a moment to walk with Jesus. The Stations of the cross is a journey, a way of prayer, where you walk in spirit with Jesus on His road to Calvary. There are many online versions to choose from including this one:

<https://resourcecem.com/2018/10/03/the-stations-of-the-cross/>

**Social Justice**

Caritas Australia would like to THANK YOU for supporting Project Compassion 2020. If you still have your Project Compassion box or set of envelopes at home, please visit [www.caritas.org.au](http://www.caritas.org.au) to make your donation online.

Through your generosity you will be empowering the world's most vulnerable communities to grow stronger and share their strengths with their communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

[www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion](http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion)

#projectcompassion  
1800 024 413



Please also remember those in hardship on our own doorstep. For many years we have had the support of Baker's Delight Nepean Square Shopping Centre. Due to the Covid 19 Pandemic we were unable to continue with this year's Hot Cross Bun drive. However Yasmin and her team are still working hard so please remember to support our local businesses as they have done for us in the past.

**Show Your Support**



Many blessings,

Sharon Shahoud  
Religious Education Coordinator





**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen** OFM Conv DD STL  
Bishop of Parramatta

Level 2, 12 Victoria Rd, Parramatta NSW 2150  
PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750

☎ 02 8838 3400 📠 02 9630 4813

✉ [bishop@parracatholic.org](mailto:bishop@parracatholic.org)

🌐 [parracatholic.org](http://parracatholic.org)

## **Pastoral letter to the clergy, religious and people of Parramatta during the coronavirus crisis**

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

Many of us feel powerless in the face of this corona virus pandemic. We see in a devastating way how widely a virus spreads person to person and the immense damage it is doing to our community.

We are indeed living in a time of great crisis locally and globally. So, it is only human that we will experience considerable fear and anxiety.

However, as people of faith in Jesus of Nazareth, we are called to place our trust in our God who promises to be present with us even in these times of great suffering and sickness.

Even in his seeming absence, we still place our hope in the One who loves us tenderly and with great mercy. And so, as responsible citizens and faithful Catholics, in solidarity with our wonderful doctors and health professionals, our first rule must be: **"Do no harm."**

That means not doing anything that might spread the virus to others with whom we live in community. We need to listen to our medical experts and not to conspiracy theorists who use any crisis to profiteer or stir up hatred and division.

We must also comply with the directives of our government authorities for the sake of the common good. The gospel calls us to practice such solidarity in these difficult days.

As many of you already know I have [issued a statement](#) which involves the closure of churches and the curtailment of our regular worship practices until this crisis abates.

Please adhere strictly to these directives that I have given. Further updates can be found here: [www.parracatholic.org/covid19](http://www.parracatholic.org/covid19) as the situation we are in is so fast changing and complex.

All of us in the Diocese of Parramatta must follow these guidelines without exception, so that we can be like St Joseph: 'Protectors of Life'.



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Becoming 'Protectors of Life' will certainly demand of us sacrifices. Let's especially not forget the suffering in our midst: the elderly, the weak, the disabled, the homeless, the unemployed et cetera. Let us not forget vulnerable groups and communities: the indigenous, the asylum seekers in detention, prisoners et cetera.

Then there are also those whom the Catholic Church through the traditional Lenten Project Compassion supports.

In previous ages before germs and viruses were understood, people blamed strangers, Jews and 'outsider's' for sickness. Anyone who was different could be the target of people's fear.

So, let us in these days be especially mindful of caring with compassion and charity for any persons in community who are on the 'margins': be they the aged, the chronically ill and all those living in poverty and isolation. Let our love for them be real and concrete.

May we also use these days to deepen our prayer and spiritual lives. Even as we mourn our losses, Pope Francis encourages us, "Let us call upon him today, firmly rooted in prayer, for without prayer all our activity risks being fruitless and our message empty." (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 259)

So please visit our diocesan website at: [www.parracatholic.org/covid19](http://www.parracatholic.org/covid19) for some good and helpful information about how we can follow this path of deeper prayer. It includes online liturgy resources for personal and family prayer and various options for viewing Mass on-line and meditating on the daily scripture readings.

The coronavirus crisis strikes fear and anxiety into people across the globe. It also reveals deep cultural prejudices and divisions against the elderly, the weak and even those of certain race and ethnicity.

Our faith makes us step beyond these human boundaries. It expands our horizons and pushes the limits of our capacity to love.

Through the example of Jesus, we are called to embrace those vulnerable in our society and reach out to them. It is not the time to look after ourselves only but to care for others, through our prayers, acts of kindness and deep communion with them.

May these days of suffering and fear draw us ever close to Christ and let's all pray with Pope Francis to Mary, our mother:





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### **Pope Francis' Prayer to Mary during the coronavirus pandemic**

O Mary,  
you always shine on our path  
as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.  
You, Salvation of all People,  
know what we need,  
and we are sure you will provide  
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,  
we may return to joy and to feasting  
after this time of trial.  
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who has taken upon himself our sufferings  
and carried our sorrows  
to lead us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the resurrection. Amen.

Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God. Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial, but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.

**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv**  
**Bishop of Parramatta**

*Given at Parramatta on 25 March 2020*  
*The Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord*