Dear Parents

Lent a season of Reflection and Renewal

Lent can be a good time to reflect on the people who mean the most to us and the relationships we hold most dear. It can be alarming to realize that our time together as a family might amount to no more than a few minutes a day. Our lives are independent as we scatter in different directions each day for work, school or childcare.

This season of reflection and renewal provides an appropriate time to pray about our family lives and how we can be more thoughtful and prayerful about Lent as a family.

Perhaps we could hold a family meeting over dinner or some other relaxed place. We could discuss Lent and the symbols of the season. We might want to talk about how our faith life is not a journey we make alone, but one we are in as a community, as a family.

One Lenten family practice might include a daily act of love for our family. Can we look around and see some small thing that needs to be done to make our lives together better? Is there laundry to sort or dishes to be washed? Is there a floor that needs sweeping or a room that needs dusting? Just one effort by each of us each day can make a dramatic difference in sharing the workload in the family.

The grace we are reaching for goes beyond getting the garbage taken out, for example. We know it is a grace when our experience of taking the garbage out, feels to us like an act of love, an act of solidarity as a family. Perhaps the simplest way to prepare for this grace is to pray:

*Dear Lord, may this simple, ordinary sacrifice of my time for the sake of those I love, draw us closer together as a family whose hearts you are drawing to yourself in the togetherness of our family love.*

One of the real graces of Lent has to do with forgiveness and reconciliation – mercy and healing. This is never simply a matter between the individual and Jesus. It always has something to do with our families and with our relationships – how we are with each other. What in us needs mercy and healing?

Yours sincerely,
Leanne Nettleton
Principal
Term One Wrap Up

Term One has been a very successful one and has been a great start for all our students in learning in 2011. This year there has been a noticeable increase in the number of parents attending our Monday morning prayer assemblies and Friday Parish masses. All of our children benefit from the presence of our parents within our school community, whether it is helping out in the classrooms, sharing a particular expertise, assisting with sports events or telling personal stories as a part of Harmony Day. It is well documented that “One of the most critical factors in a child’s education is a parents involvement”. We thank our parents for their generous contributions throughout Term One and invite them to continue this engagement throughout the year.

Happenings for Term One have included: new kindergarten transition, buddies programme, parent/teacher meetings, parish grade masses and reconciliations in our learning spaces of a Friday morning with Father Dave and parishioners, Monday Morning Prayer Assemblies, our Spellathon/Skillathon and the associated mufti days incentives, the zone swimming carnival, school cross country, Harmony Day, Open School and the Principal’s Numeracy Challenge. Thank you to you all, whatever your contribution or support has been.

As the term concludes I would also like to thank our wonderful staff who have given so much this term as always. The children have been offered many opportunities to share their talents both in and out of the classrooms. It has been a wonderful term of learning for the children.

It is time now for a well deserved rest for everybody – of course an opportunity for us all to recharge our batteries ready for Term 2!! On behalf of the Staff may you all experience the peace and joy of the risen Christ this Easter.

Enrolments

The Parish Enrolment Committee has met and reviewed all Expression of Interest Forms for Kindergarten 2012. This week, Enrolment Packages are being sent to families for completion. Interviews will commence in mid May. Please pass this information on to any families that you know of who have a child ready to commence Kindergarten in 2012 and who may not have yet sent in an Expression of Interest Form.

Spellathon and Skillathon

We will be finalising this fundraising event on Thursday by drawing our raffle of 2 portable DVD players. All money needs to be into the office by Wednesday so that raffle tickets can be issued. GOOD LUCK girls and boys and thank you for your fundraising efforts.

Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their Birthdays:-

Lovette Boachie, Jake Christie, Marcus Huynh, Prabhnnoor Dhillon, Hannah Aouchan and Benjamin Inns

SPORTING NEWS

Cross Country

Despite the inclement weather last Thursday we were able to conduct our school Cross Country. Thank you to all those parents who assisted by walking to and from the park and assisting with activities at the park. Thank you to Mrs Clark, Mr Robey, Ms Porteous, Miss Robertson and Mrs O’Rourke for the organisation of the day. Our students really did demonstrate great sportsmanship skills.

Congratulations to the following students who will represent Holy Cross at the Zone Cross Country carnival at Eastern Creek on Tuesday May 3rd 2011:-


GALA DAYS

Best wishes to our Stage 3 students who will be representing Holy Cross at the Diocesan Soccer Gala Day and the Touch Football Gala Day this week. Thank you to Mr Robey, Mr Wood, Mrs Pritchard and Mrs O’Rourke who will be accompanying the teams

Play Football for the Holy Cross Hurricanes

The Hurricanes Glenwood Junior Rugby League Club need players for the U7’s, U9’s and U11’s age groups. Training is every Wednesday from 5.00pm at our home ground Allen Robertson Reserve Kings Langley on Vardy's Road Kings Langley. Registration includes shorts and socks along with the use of our club’s new Jersey. Rego fees at this late stage are negotiable. All enquiries contact Spiro Papadatos on 0418 600 625 or spiropap@iprimus.com.au

SCHOOL PHOTOS MAY 2ND 2011

The annual school photos have been organised for Monday May 2. This early notice is being provided to allow parents to have their children’s SUMMER uniform organised for these photos. Children will return after the school holidays in their summer uniform so that we can have a Summer uniform photo this year (in 2010 we had Winter school uniforms for the photos). This year, the children in Years 3-6 will have grade photographs taken and children in Kinder – Year 2 will have class photographs taken. Families can organise to have family portraits to be taken and the school will organise the taking of special group photos: Zone Swimming Team, Diocesan Cross Country Team, Soccer and Touch Football Gala Day Teams.

Play Football for the Holy Cross Hurricanes
PARISH NEWS
It has been wonderful to see so many parents come and join us every week for Monday Morning Prayer. Our numbers have grown considerably this year and we hope you will continue to come and pray with us in Term 2.

Lent is a time for thinking of others and one way we can do this is by donating money. On Thursday we have a Mufti Day to raise for Project Compassion. We hope you will support this cause in your usual generous way.

You are invited to celebrate the Parish mass with Year Five on Friday.
May we wish you the blessings and peace of Holy Week and the Easter season.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS
The Parish Community of Blessed John XXIII invite you to prayer and reflection
22nd April at 10.00am
Holy Cross Primary School
49 Meurants Lane Glenwood

Waiting at the tomb
Following the Lord’s Passion, at 3pm on Good Friday, the Church will remain open until 10pm for veneration of the cross and quiet prayer. It is an opportunity for families to “sit quietly at the tomb” and reflect on the great sacrifice that Jesus has made for us.

Easter liturgy times and places at Blessed John XXIII Parish

Holy Thursday Night:- Mass at 7.30pm
Good Friday:- Stations of the Cross at Holy Cross. Celebration of the Lord’s Passion will be at the Church at 3.00pm. Veneration of the cross will be available directly after this service. Following the Lord’s Passion, the church will remain opened till 10.00pm. You are invited to come back later to the Church and sit quietly “AT THE TOMB” to reflect on the great sacrifice that Jesus has made for us. This would be a good time to venerate the cross, privately or with your family. Come back and spend 10, 20 or even 30 minutes in quiet prayer and reflection.
Holy Saturday:- No Morning Mass. Easter Vigil begins at 6.00pm.
Easter Sunday:- 8.30am, 10.30am and 6.00pm

Enrolment Ritual For First Eucharist
RECONCILIATION FOR EASTER
Wednesday 13th April - 7.30pm Kellyville with Bishop Anthony Fisher
Thursday 14th April 7.30pm Stanhope Gardens
Friday 15th April 7.30pm Windsor
Monday 18th April 7.30pm Richmond

Mother’s Day Stall
Children are reminded to bring into school gifts to be donated to our Mothers Day Stall. Every child is asked to donate a gift to the value of $5 and to also bring in a sheet of gift wrapping paper (please do not wrap the gift). Then on the day of the Mothers Day Stall every child purchases a gift for $3. Money from this stall is then donated to CARITAS to assist with those in need – in 2011 there are so many victims of natural disasters both within Australia and across the world in need of our support. Please send gifts in to class teachers.

Term One School Fees
Term 1 school fees are now overdue unless you have arranged your flexible fee payments, which should have already started. Thank you to families who have paid Term One fees. If you have not arranged the flexible payment option and you wish to take up this option please contact Vanessa in the office to do so. If you would like to discuss the payment of your outstanding fees please make an appointment with Mrs Nettleton.

TERM DATES
Term Two commences Wednesday 27th April
School Photos Monday May 2nd
Diocesan Cross Country Tuesday 3rd May
Mother’s Day Stall Friday 6th May
Dear Parishioner,

This letter is my personal invitation to you to attend our forthcoming parish retreat. **Blessed John 23rd** will be undertaking this program from 13th May, 2011 to 12th June. The retreat will be held in the Staff Common Room of Blessed John 23rd School (adjacent to the church). Couples for Christ Australia will be conducting this program which has been approved the Most Rev Anthony Fisher OP, Bishop of the Diocese of Parramatta, and by other bishops of Australia.

For each day’s session there will generally be two talks from experienced speakers who will share their journey of faith from a lay perspective. There will be an opportunity to discuss the contents of each talk in a small group. At the end of each session, there will be light supper and a cup of tea. Every week is a continuation of the previous week’s presentation, so to maximise the benefit, we encourage everyone to undertake the program in its entirety. If, for any reason you are unable to attend a session, we will record the session for you.

This program has been designed for all members of the family 18 years and over. I am praying that this will be a time of renewal for **every family in our parish**. If you have children aged 12 years or under, we invite you to bring them along as there will be a children’s program running simultaneously. Children over twelve years will have their own program sometime in the future.

There is no cost for your participation in this retreat; it is a gift from the Church for all Christians, practicing or not. All are most welcome to join the program, and as we are all called by Jesus to be His disciples and to spread the Good News of Salvation, I encourage you to invite your friends and relatives to come along.

May God continue to bless you and your family.

Rev. Fr. Dave Hume  
Parish Priest  
Blessed John 23rd, Glenwood-Stanhope Gardens