Dear Parents,

Last Friday we all gathered for our Opening School Mass, which was a wonderful celebration of our life in faith. As always we thank Fr Dave for the way he presides over these occasions and challenges us to go forth and continue to live out the gospel values in our daily lives. During the Mass we were able to thank God for our many blessings and we prayed for the year ahead.

Thank you to all of the families who were able to join us in this celebration.

Also, thank you to all of the parents who attended the Parent Information Sessions last week. We had a good number in attendance. These meetings are valuable opportunities to meet with your child’s teachers and to gain an insight into what they will be doing throughout 2012. I would hope that these meetings were both informative and met with your needs.

It is wonderful to see the Kindergarten children so settled and enjoying school. The Kindy teachers are very happy with the way the children have adapted to the school routine so quickly.

*Lord, during this Lenten Season,*
*nourish me with Your Word of life*  
*and make me one*  
*with You in love and prayer.*

*Fill my heart with Your love*  
*and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ.*

*Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness.*

*Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially the Mass.*

God bless you and your family,  
*Jenny Bellenger*  
*Acting Principal*

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**Parish News**

I was rather impressed with Youth For Christ last Sunday. They had their meeting from 2.00pm to 5.00pm and participated in the running of the youth mass. Their contribution was appreciated by me as they added to the liturgy at that mass. We look forward to them being with us every third Sunday of each month and invite others to join them.

This Sunday after the 6.00pm a young man by the name of Jessper Perez will speak about his spiritual journey, a 15 day trek through Laos. I have heard this extraordinary story and invite all parishioners of all ages to come and hear this inspirational young man. It will be in St Mark’s staff room from 7.30pm.

Sunday 4th March is the first Sunday of the month and our Youth Group meet at the Parish Kitchen from 4.30pm to 7.30pm. It is for 12 year olds to 18 years. 4.30pm afternoon tea. 5.00pm Breaking open the word. 5.30pm Jobs for mass 6.00pm Youth Mass followed by fellowship and something to eat till 7.30pm.

**Parents Meeting for First Eucharist 2012**

Parents wanting to have their children enrolled for the preparation of their First Holy Communion are reminded to attend one of the Parent Meetings to be held in the Parish Church (BIXXIII), 160 Perfection Ave, Stanhope Gardens on Wednesday March 14 at 7.30pm or Thursday March 15 at 7.30pm. This will be the only time that Enrolment forms will be handed out and the children will then need to lodge them at an Enrolment ritual which will take place at any of the masses on the weekend of March 31/ April 1.

These children will have already been baptised in the Catholic Church and have already received their First Reconciliation (Confession). For full details of our Sacramental Calendar please see the notice board in the foyer of the church or www.john23rd.org.au .

Sue Andruskin (Sacramental Co-ordinator/ Pastoral Associate) can be contacted on 9852 0583 or sacramental@john23rd.org.au.

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**School RE News**

**Ash Wednesday Liturgy**

At 12pm on Wednesday, the whole school will gather for Ash Wednesday Liturgy. Year 2 to 6 classes will gather in our multi-purpose learning space to participate in our school’s Ash Wednesday liturgy. Kindergarten and Year 1 will gather for similar prayer in their grade learning spaces. Parents are warmly invited to attend.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent. As we receive the ashes we are told, “Turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel”. With these words and together with the symbol of the cross we enter into a season of penance, reflection, and fasting, which prepares us for Christ’s Resurrection on Easter Sunday.

The ashes are made from the blessed palms used in the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. The ashes are christened with Holy Water and are scented by exposure to incense. While the ashes symbolise penance, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and merciful to those who call on Him with repentant hearts. It is during Lent that we called to do just that, readying ourselves for Easter.

**Monday Morning Prayer**

Parents and families are invited to join us in the MPLIC at 9.00am on Mondays for morning prayer. This is a very special way for us to begin each week. Each Monday a different class will lead our prayer. Next Monday the focus will be Project Compassion. This is a special time when we come together to help others who are less fortunate in the world.
National Year of Reading
As I’m sure you are aware, this year has been designated as National Year of Reading. We plan to offer the students many opportunities to experience the pleasure and satisfaction that comes from reading.
On Tuesday afternoons at 3 pm, we invite parents and pre-schoolers to join us in the library for Story Time. This will be a great opportunity to hear some wonderful stories, chant some rhymes and see our wonderful library.
The first story time will commence on Tuesday, 28 February at 3pm.

Maths and Play

Even if you are not a mathematical genius, there is a great deal parents can do to help their child/ren. Maths teaching and the way sums are recorded are quite different from twenty years ago and parents are sometimes reluctant to help with maths homework for fear of doing things ‘the wrong way’. Not to worry - the best thing you can do is to help your child develop a positive attitude towards mathematics by showing interest, by talking about what has been taught at school, and by helping them to notice and use mathematics in everyday contexts.

Here are some more ideas and tips you might like to use:
• Play snakes and ladders and dominoes that depend on numbers, counting, calculation and scoring.
• ‘Battleships’ is a fun way to use graphs.
• Talk about pocket money. Help them to add it up and work out whether they can afford a particular toy or treat.
• Shop using money and calculate change.
• Watch and play sports that involve scoring, timing, counting, measuring.
• Add to their toy collection - counters, a purse full of change, dice, dominoes, a tape measure, ruler, pack of cards, timer, different shapes, etc.
• Ask them to look for patterns and shapes on floors, wallpaper, plants, animals, buildings - anything from the arrangement of tiles in the kitchen to the markings on the cat.
• Look at clocks, both digital and analogue, and estimate how long a certain activity will take to do. Work out how long it is until the next mealt ime/how long is a minute, starting from now? How far can they run at the park in a minute? Good for their health too!

Happy Birthday to all students who have celebrated their Birthday
Cameron Logan, Ella Wood, Jessica Thomas, Alistair Gleson, Oviya Kumar, Bodie Tonisson, Branden Lawson, Ryan Zammit, Madeline Said and Brianna Zaal

Student Writing Competition—‘Summer Sizzlers of 2011’
Well done Emmanuel Almonte for your achievement in receiving 3rd place in the Writing Competition. This competition was open to all students throughout Australia. The entries that were received were of very high calibre. Emmanuel amazed the judges with his poem...

Bushfire
Flickering flames of frenzied fury,
Fanned by a freshening breeze.
Terrible, taunting tongues of fire,
Hungryly lick at the trees.
With a roaring rush, the raging inferno,
Famines forests and farm.
Until the land is blackened, barren and bare,
And the world once wild is calm.
And the stillness settles on silent soil,
Which once was the place of the trees.
While the animals dead, or long since gone,
Are just memories.
But the green grass grows as time goes by,
And sinewy saplings soar.
For natures nourishes new grown trees,
Until the bush is there once more.

Poetry by Emmanuel Almonte, Holy Cross Primary School - Australia

Congratulations
Matthew Considine in trialling for the Parramatta Diocese tennis trials. There were 30 boys who trialled. Matthew was seeded No. 1 to represent Parramatta Diocese at the MacKillop Trials in Wollongong on March 3. Good Luck Matthew!

Children recognised as Gr8 People demonstrating the “Good Communicator” Attribute
The following children were recognised by their peers as demonstrating the Good Communicator Attribute over the last two weeks:-

Second Hand Uniform Shop
Thank you to Mrs Kylie Aouchan who coordinates the preloved uniform shop for the families at Holy Cross. The shop will be open tomorrow from 2.30—3.00pm then every second Wednesday thereafter.

SCHOOL FEES
By now all families should have received their school fees account by mail. If you have not received your account please contact Vanessa in the office. Also, the optional flexible payment plan needs to be lodged no later than this Thursday 23rd February.
Glenwood Cafés  
Child and Family Education Sessions  
Holy Cross Primary School

**Entrée**
Hills Family Centre, together with the Families NSW Transition to School Program, are offering parents of kindergarten and Year 1 children the opportunity to participate in Glenwood Cafes - Child and Family Education Sessions. This will be a series of three sessions focused on key topics relating to the commencement of the school journey. The relaxed environment will allow for lots of discussion and questions, so we invite you to come along to have a cuppa and a chat! Please note, these sessions are not suitable for children to attend.

**Main Menu**

**Session 1: Beginning the School Journey** *(for Kindergarten Parents)*
Exploring the parent perspective on children starting school. Ideas to support your children as they begin their school journey.

**Session 2: Helping Your Child Learn** *(for Kindergarten and Year 1 Parents)*
Practical ideas for parents to enhance their child’s learning. Free resources will be provided!

**Session 3: Recipe for a Happy Family** *(for Kindergarten and Year 1 Parents)*
Ideas and strategies to build positive relationships with your children.

**Opening Hours**

**Session 1**  
Wednesday, 24 March  
7.30pm - 9.30pm

**Session 2**  
Wednesday, 21 March  
7.30pm - 9.30pm

**Session 3**  
Wednesday, 28 March  
7.30pm - 9.30pm

**Where:** Holy Cross Primary School Hall  
**RSVP:** Friday, 9 March 2022

To register, please contact:  
Katy Eves  
(02) 8805 7288  
katy.eves@wesleymission.org.au

**Wesley Hills Family Centre**  
**“It takes a village to raise a child”**  
**familiesNSW**  
supporting families to raise children
2012 Holy Cross Opening School Mass Open To The New

We welcome you to our new school year and pray that our lives will be made new.