Dear Parents and Carers,

**Staff Reflection Day - 10th August 2012**

“We must teach more by example than by word“

(Mary MacKillop 1867)

Last Wednesday 8th August we celebrated the solemnity in the Church’s calendar of Australia’s first saint, Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop.

Mary MacKillop was born in Melbourne in 1842 and died in Sydney on 8th August 1909. Saint Mary MacKillop led a humble and simple life focused on improving the life of others without seeking recognition for herself.

Mary MacKillop’s life teaches us to live with courage in the face of difficulties and trust in God’s care. She respected the human dignity of every person she met and tried to treat everyone equally.

Mary MacKillop chose to be called “Sister Mary of the Cross”. She saw the cross as an expression of her commitment to God and her personal relationship to Jesus. She spoke of walking with all those who were struggling and suffering in life and needed hope and encouragement on the way.

On Friday 10th August 2012, our staff had the privilege of travelling to North Sydney to Mary MacKillop Place to learn more about Mary MacKillop’s life and to pray and reflect together.

**Let us pray:**

*Compassionate God fill our hearts with love*

*deep enough to walk in the shoes of those who have known hardship in their lives. Like Mary MacKillop may we reach out to those who are struggling in our community. St Mary of the Cross, serving with compassion, pray for us.*

Regards,

**Marina Hardy**

**Principal**
A meeting will be called for all interested helpers on Mass on Sunday 19th August.

The Consecration of our parish to The Immaculate Heart of Mary will take place next week at the 10.30am Sunday Mass on Sunday 19th August. Thanks to everyone for your feedback. On the first Saturday of each month following we will have at the 9.00am mass the consecration prayer and rosary finishing on January 1st the Solemnity, Mary, the Holy Mother of God.

Anyone wishing you be involved in the GTK Youth Group being formed in the parish for 10yr olds to 15yr olds then please contact me. Thus far I have had a positive response. A meeting will be called for all interested helpers on Tuesday 28th August at 7.30pm in the Parish Church Kitchen.

Congratulations to all our Year 6 students who presented their Holy Cross at the Semi Finals at Our Lady of the Rosary, Windsor, St Nicholas of Myra Penrith and Trinity Primary School Kemps Creek.

This year tickets for the events will only be available for purchase online. Tickets have been allocated to each school and can be booked through the following website: http://www.trybooking.com/BMLL. Tickets are available now for your immediate purchase.

The Feas of the Assumption

This Wednesday is the Feast of the Assumption. This is one of the most significant feast days of the year as we recall and celebrate Mary’s rise to heaven. Classes will mark the day in prayer. Being a year where the school is particularly learning about traditional prayer, it may be a good opportunity to share the prayer of Our Lady as a family together.

Voice of Youth

Congratulations to all our Year 6 students who presented their Voice of Youth speeches last week. On Wednesday 15th August, 2012 Chelsea Hartley and Jessica Clements will be representing our school at the Semi Finals at Our Lady of the Rosary, Kellyville. Sophie Baker has been selected as our school reserve. We wish the students all the very best.

Congratulations Mrs Pielago

It’s a baby girl

Congratulations to Grace and Jet Pielago on the birth of their baby girl Jada Faith Pielago who was born on Monday 13th August 2012.

Sacramental Calendar 2012

All dates for this year’s Sacramental Programs are available on the parish website: www.john23rd.org.au

There are a link on the main page that will take you to the 2012 calendar.

Our next Sacrament for the year is Reconciliation. Reconciliation is available for children who have turned 7 and have been Baptised.

There are two parents meetings on Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th September at 7:30pm. Enrolment rituals will be celebrated during the masses of the weekend beginning 15th September. Two second parent meetings will be conducted on Wed 24th and Thurs 25th of October at 7:30pm. The children’s sessions start in November. The first two being Sat 3rd November at 4:30pm followed by 6pm mass, or Sun 4th November at 9:45am following 8:30 mass. Similar sessions will be run during the following weekends of the 10th and 11th. Actual Reconciliation will be received in two sessions on Wed 14th November at 5:30 and 7:30pm as well as Wed 21st November at 5:30pm and 7:30pm.

All of these dates are available on the parish website though more importantly this will all be discussed and explained during the first parent sessions.

If there are any questions and concerns before then please direct them to Mr Stennett here at school. Otherwise please take note of these dates so that your child will be able to attend.

Due to changes in Diocesan Policy regarding the ages of children for sacraments, there will be no Confirmation at Blessed John XXIII this year.

To coincide with our Book Week celebrations we will once again hold a Book Fair commencing on Monday 20th August to Wednesday 22nd August 2012, 8.30 – 3.30 pm. We will have many quality books for our families to purchase. A percentage of the sales from the fair are returned to the school so that we can purchase more resources for our library. Credit card facilities will be available.

Father’s Day Wrapping Presents

On Monday 20 August after Monday morning pray we will be wrapping father’s day gifts. Everyone is welcome to help, more helpers we have, quicker the job will be done.

Father’s Day Stall

Father’s Day Stall will be held on Friday 31st August. The cost of each gift will be $5.00 which includes wrapping and a label. Please remember to send along $5.00 with your child on the day so they can purchase their gift. We will also require parent helpers on this day to assist with selling.

Thank you, Julie Surace
From the Executive Director of Schools, Mr Greg Whitby and the Bishop’s Office

Notices from Bishop’s Office

Inside Catholic Outlook’s August issue
* Bishop Anthony’s statement on joint inquiry
* Ordination of Fr Larry Tolentino
* Diocesan Mass for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Sunday
* You Are Called! One year to go to WYD Rio – report & photos
* News from our Catholic Schools
* National Vocations Awareness Week Feature

Positions Vacant
1. Social Media Coordinator (full time): The Diocese of Parramatta is seeking an experienced online communications professional to assist in developing its social media channels, which support the evangelising mission of the Church in Western Sydney. Applications close on Sunday 26 August 2012.

Applications: For further details about this position and how to apply, visit the ‘Employment’ page on the Diocese of Parramatta’s website: www.parra.catholic.org.au

Palms Australia
Palms Australia is a Catholic organisation that has been sending volunteers to developing countries for 50+ years. Palms global volunteers are vehicles for development and social change through mentoring and exchange of skills. Palms partner communities in PNG, Tanzania, Samoa, Timor Leste and Kiribati are in urgent need of skilled volunteers. Please see the flyer in your parish, tel (02) 9518 9551 or visit www.palms.org.au

Non-violent Peacemaking in Your Community ... in Your World: 11 & 18 August
Come and discover the principles and power of active non-violence in the tradition of Jesus, Ghandi and Martin Luther King Jr and learn concrete skills for putting non-violent power into practice. Where: Edmund Rice Centre, 15 Henley Rd Homebush West, 9am-4.30pm. Cost $35 per day. Details: Gill Burrows (02) 9922 2927, gill@ozburrows.com, www.paceebene.org.au/workshops.html

National Marriage Day Rally: 14 August
Support traditional marriage by joining a bus trip to Canberra. Rally speakers include Senator Barnaby Joyce and the Hon Kevin Andrews MP. Trip departs 6am from Information Kiosk, Penrith Panthers, Mulgoa Rd, Penrith. Coach travel free but lunch at own cost at the Canberra Club. Bookings essential – only 45 seats: Lyn Keane – CatholicCare Social Services Parramatta (02) 9933 0222, lyn.keane@ccss.org.au

Holy Hour for Vocations: 16 August
Everyone is welcome to join the Holy Hour for Vocations in St Patrick’s Cathedral on the third Thursday of each month for an hour of adoration, prayer, music and quiet time. Where: Blessed Sacrament Chapel in St Patrick’s Cathedral, 1 Marist Place Parramatta, 7pm.

The New Evangelisation: 18 August
Bishop Julian Porteous will speak on the role of the lay person in the New Evangelisation, including an overview of ecclesial movements in the Church’s history and the evangelising mission of the whole Church. All welcome. Where: St Joachim’s Parish Hall, 31-33 John St, Lidcombe, 1-5pm. Details: (02) 9831 4044.

Cerdon College 20-year reunion: 18 August
Students and staff who attended Cerdon College, Merrylands, in 1992 are invited to the school’s 20-year reunion. Venue: Parramatta. Details: Gina: ginapirrello@gmail.com

Christian Meditation Introduction & Renewal Day: 19 August
St Benedict’s Monastery, 121 Arcadia Road, Arcadia. Time: 10am for 10.30am till 3.00pm.

Our Lady of Penafriancia Triduum: 25 August
The first of the Triduum celebration of Novena & Mass. Where: St Paul the Apostle Church, Buckleys Rd Winston Hills. Time: 11am.

Walk As One Forum: 25-26 August
Hosted by Caritas Australia, this forum will bring delegates together from all over Australia with a shared interest in improving the rights and recognition of Indigenous communities globally. It will be an action-packed two days of learning, exchange and action planning; broaching key initiatives in fostering the development and recognition of Indigenous peoples. Details on the forum, speaker profiles, workshops and registration: www.caritas.org.au
Help Needed

Thank you very much to our school community for collecting our Woolworths stickers and coles vouchers. The closing date is fast approaching and it is now time to finalise the number of stickers and vouchers.

We would appreciate it if anyone would be able to take some stickers or vouchers home to assist with counting them. If you are able to assist please contact the school office.

Date Claimer

Friday September 14th - School Feast Day and Walkathon

On Friday September 14th Holy Cross will be celebrating our school Feast Day with Mass, picnic lunch, activities and a walkathon.

Upcoming Events

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