Dear Parents and Carers,

**Receiving the Blessed Sacrament for the first time…..**

At Blessed John XXIII Parish on the weekend, many of our children made their First Holy Communion. What a truly wonderful celebration, not only for these children and their families, but also our parish and whole school community. May these children be nourished through the Blessed Sacrament!

Congratulations to the following children from our school and wider community who made their First Holy Communion on Friday 15th and Saturday 16th June:-

Anna-Caitlin Assam, Chanel Assam, Nathan Baylon, Nerita Baylon, Mathew Clements, Tami Mahachi, Mikaela Sanchez, Jared Sitaramayya, Nicholas Taylor, Vanessa Alexandrakis, Hannah Aouchan, Hannah Arevalo, Luke Bebek, Jorja Darling, Jayden Faint, Ysabella Festejo, Michael Harper, Abbey Holmes, Nathan Inglis, Aidan Irving, Elizabeth Kitcher, Beatriz Matias, Abbey Mey, Madeleine O'Rourke, Tamara Seckold, Brenton Sherry, Ethan Tarry and Ruby Villiers.

We keep in our prayers the following children who will be receiving their First Holy Communion on Friday 22nd June and Saturday 23rd June:-

Ned Connolly, Benjamin Inns, Geremy Muhvich, Jack O'Keeffe, Sophie Salkovic, Callum Scott, Anthony Surace, Jacob Szymoniczek, Crystal D'Cunha, Jonathan D'Cunha, Sarah Ettehad, Thalia Ferguson, Triana Fernandez, Samantha Hewitson and Natasha Sullivan.

*Catholic Schools - Centres for the New Evangelisation*

Last week our School Leadership Team joined approximately one thousand pastors and leaders from every diocese in NSW and the ACT, as well as representatives from other dioceses across Australia. The day was for Catholic education leaders entitled “Catholic Schools as Centres of the New Evangelisation”.

We were privileged to have as our keynote speakers the Secretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education in the Roman Curia, Archbishop Jean Louis Brugès OP and Professor Richard Rymarz, St Joseph's College, University of Alberta, Canada.

This was a significant and wonderful opportunity provided to our leadership team to reflect on, and share, our collective experiences and commitment to ensuring our Catholic schools are strengthened as centres of the New Evangelisation with our pastors. The gathering, prayer, as well as the dialogue between colleagues from across Australia provided a rich experience for our Leadership Team. For further information regarding the conference, please see our school website.

Regards,

*Marina Hardy*

*Principal*
Parish News

Next Thursday at 7.30pm I invite you to come and watch a movie on the life of Blessed John XXII in the Presbytery, 14 Leeds Street. Just turn up with a cake or some nibbless to share. I congratulate Bart Sarlabus and John Boyle for being elected unopposed as Chairperson and Vice Chair of the Parish Council for the next two years. We have a wonderful team and we welcome Bob and Grace Agbulos to the Parish Council and thank Bob for taking the leadership role with Liturgy. I also thank those people mentioned in Bart’s Column who have decided to go off the Parish Council. It has been a wonderful two years and I thank all council members for engaging our community in identifying Christ’s presence among us in liturgy, faith development, community building and social justice. The weekly planned giving envelopes are available to be picked up from the foyer of the main doors. I would like to thank those who clean our church every week. However, the inside windows and ledges need a good clean. So on Saturday 14th July from 9.30am - 10.30am come along bring dusters, cleaning materials to wipe down windows, ledges, seats etc. 10.30am Morning Tea and go home. Come as a family or come as one and join in the fun. If anyone has any idea on how to make an extension pole to clean the upper ledges, then let me know. I have been told not to go up any more ladders! If you can spare a couple of hours then let Tanya at the Parish Office know of your availability and numbers coming for catering purposes! If you would like to claim a garden patch to keep our church beautiful then please phone Tanya at the parish office.

Staffing News

Ms Anne Porteous will be taking Long Service Leave from Monday 25 June (Week 10) until the beginning of Term 4. We wish Anne all the very best for an enjoyable and refreshing break. Miss Samantha Pepin will be replacing Ms Porteous during this time. Congratulations to Mrs Natalie Robertson who will be Acting Co-ordinator 2 while Ms Porteous is on leave.

Mrs Carmen Salkeld will also be taking Long Service Leave during Term 3. Mrs Dionne Villiers will be teaching in Year One on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, in addition to her Thursday and Friday during term 3. We also wish Mrs Salkeld an enjoyable and relaxing holiday.

Mrs Grace Pielago will be going on Maternity Leave as from Monday 30th July until the end of the year. Mrs Dianne Khalifeh will be replacing Mrs Pielago during this time. I am sure you will join with me in wishing Mrs Pielago and her husband all the very best as they await the birth of their first child.

School RE News

Pyjama Day @ Holy Cross and Staff Winter Sleep-Out

As a focus for our school’s mission appeal this term, Holy Cross will be having a Pyjama Day on Friday 29th June, next week. Each student will be encouraged to bring in a gold coin and either wear their pyjamas or a tracksuit on the day as well as joggers. Money raised will go towards supporting a special fund that has been set up by our parish to assist a number of families in the community with seriously ill children.

Some of our staff will be sleeping out at school on the night before. Through this, and by wearing our pyjamas, we hope to raise awareness of those in our community and society who are experiencing hardship. Classes will gather in prayer and focus on this initiative throughout the day on Friday.

As this year NAIDOC WEEK (National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee) occurs in the first week of the holidays, the children of Holy Cross celebrated NAIDOC week yesterday by having an “Animals of the Dreaming” incursion. “Animals of the Dreaming” is an interactive outreach program where students gain an insight into Aboriginal Culture and develop an awareness of the importance of the land and animals to Aboriginal people. This was provided to the children at Holy Cross free of charge by Jarara, Catholic Education Office. Please refer to the photos on the last page of the Newsletter.

NAIDOC celebrations are held around Australia in July each year to celebrate the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. NAIDOC Week 2012 will be held from 1 to 8 July 2012. The theme for the 2012 NAIDOC Week celebrations is: Spirit of the Tent Embassy: 40 years on.
Year 3 Excursion to The Rocks – Sydney

This term Year 3 have been learning about British Colonisation and Aboriginal lifestyles. On Thursday Year 3 went on their long awaited Excursion to The Rocks in Sydney. We had a 2 hour walking tour of The Rocks to learn more about the Aboriginal people that were in Sydney when the First Fleet arrived and how the British set up a colony in Sydney.

We all got to dress up as a convict, a settler or a soldier. We also had name tags and pretended to be different people from that time.

Some of the interesting things that Year 3 learnt from their excursion are:

- The Rocks got its name because when Captain Arthur Phillip arrived he sent the convicts to make camp on a rocky outcrop. This is where The Rocks are now.
- The Ferries in Sydney are named after the First Fleet Ships.
- Mary Reiby was a convict who was sent to Australia because she stole a horse. She married a Settler and became one of the richest women in Australia. She is on the $20 note that we use now.
- James Freeman, a convict, was to be hung but was allowed to live if he took over hanging other criminals.
- The British needed oranges so that they wouldn’t get scurvy.
- The Plague was a disease that killed many people. People were paid to catch rats to stop the plague because the plague was carried by fleas on rats.
- The song, ‘Ring a Ring a Rosy’ is about the plague.
- The Suez Canal was one of the many narrow lanes in The Rocks where larrikins robbed people.
- Aboriginal people removed a front tooth as part of a ceremony. The Aboriginal people liked Captain Arthur Phillip because he also had a gap in his front teeth.
- When Captain Arthur Phillip built his house using glass the Aboriginals didn’t know what glass was.

We had an exciting day and learnt many more new things about British Colonisation.

Year Three

Athletics Carnival

Our Athletics Carnival will be held on Thursday 21st June 2012 at the oval on Glenwood Park Drive (opposite Caddies Creek) and will include all children in Years 3, 4, 5, 6 and those children in Year 2 who are 8 years old in 2012. The children will leave school at 9am promptly and walk with their class to the oval and return to school for normal dismissal time.

Please contact Mrs Clark if you are able to help on the day.

In the event of the carnival being postponed due to wet weather or park closure, parents will be notified via our school sign as well as twitter: @holycrossglen on Thursday morning.
**Do your shopping at Coles and let your dollars work for Holy Cross**  
From Wednesday 13th June until Wednesday 15th August - every $10 spent at Coles Supermarkets will earn customers a Coles Sports for Schools voucher worth 1 point. For as little as 85 points Holy Cross will be able to choose some brand new sporting equipment for our school! Students can collect vouchers from their family and friends and drop them into the voucher collection box located at the school office. There are over 100 different items of sporting equipment up for grabs such as soccer goal posts, cricket sets, footballs, beginning juggling sets just to name a few. Help all our children at Holy Cross get more motivated and active at school and invest in our sporting champions of the future. Coles Sports for Schools – sporting support for everyone.

**Second hand Uniform Shop**  
The second hand uniform shop will be open tomorrow Wednesday 20th June at 2.30pm

**Happy Birthday to the following students who celebrated their Birthday this past week**  
Ryan Pacchini, Isabella Capps, Kiara Pereira, Brendan Kapambwe, Anika Shetty and Munashe Mutsonziwa

**Upcoming Events**

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<td><strong>Monday 25th June</strong></td>
<td>Keyboard &amp; Guitar Concert</td>
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<td>11.50am</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
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<td>12.45 pm</td>
<td>Years 5 &amp; 6</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 26th June</strong></td>
<td>Keyboard &amp; Guitar Concert</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 26th June</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 27th June</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Friday 29th June</strong></td>
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