



# St Patrick's News

## Term 4, Issue 4 – October 29th , 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Today we celebrated National Teacher's Day. I would like to express my personal thanks to our dedicated teachers who work tirelessly every day, to help your beautiful children grow and learn. Their commitment to Catholic Education is outstanding. Special thanks to the P and F who organised a light, individually presented lunch for teachers. It was a lovely treat.

We began the day with Staff Prayer, centred around the example of Jesus, the Teacher. Like Jesus, teachers are the light for their students. We are so blessed to be part of such a wonderful team of educators. The teacher's knowledge, skills, compassion, faith and desire to help all children learn is remarkable. May God bless our beautiful teachers always.

### Gospel of Matthew (Mt 5: 14-16)

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'

### Return to school

Congratulations to all students for the respectful way they have returned to St. Patrick's. We have seen wonderful examples of resilience, growth in learning, keen attitude to schoolwork and a focus on inclusion. It was wonderful to see all of their big smiles (and the teachers' smiles too) as the children returned to site.

**Please remember that pick up times have changed:**

K/1	2:45pm
2-6	2:55pm

- Pick up ends at 3:15pm.
- Please ensure that you are not gathering in groups outside the gate and that masks are worn. Parents are asked to exit the site as soon as possible after collecting their children.

**Office:** As we endeavour to limit parents on site, we have set up a table outside the Office to drop off anything you may need to drop off. (hat, drink bottle - make sure all items are clearly labeled).

Parents are asked to phone the Office to pay fees, speak to Office staff, or to request a phone call from a teacher. Please scan and send Enrolment forms too.

If a child has been injured and you must enter the Office (doors are locked) you will need to QR code in and wear a mask. We thank you for your support and patience as we follow government protocols/Health Orders around safety and health.

### Drive Through reminders:

- Children are to exit cars on the left hand side for safety reasons.
- Please do not get out of your car - children must be able to undo their seatbelt, pick up their bag and exit the vehicle independently. Please do NOT send children to car boots/hatches as this is extremely unsafe. Bags must be kept on the seat/car floor with your children.
- We thank you for helping to keep all children safe.



**Children at school:** Any child with COVID-19 symptoms will be sent home and should not return until they have received a negative test result and are symptom-free. In circumstances where children have other medical reasons for recurring symptoms, a letter from their GP is sufficient to negate the requirement for a negative test.

**For anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID19, a Health Department letter must be supplied prior to re-entry. Anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms has to get tested immediately and stay in isolation until receiving a negative COVID-19 test result. Anyone contacted by NSW Health must follow the advice they have been given, particularly about getting tested and self-isolating.**

### School Counsellor

Our School Counsellor, Emily Whyte, is moving on and won't be returning to St Patrick's. We wish her all the best and thank her for supporting our students whilst at St. Patrick's. We look forward to meeting our 2 new Counsellors: Pamela Faggella and Julia Kwiet in coming weeks. (Ms Faggella in photo)



*It has been a wonderful week as children settled into their classroom spaces after so long working remotely. Their resilience and positive attitude have been commendable.*

***Please take a look at Facebook to see lots of happy photos of your child's return to school.***

*God bless you and your beautiful children,*

Monica Fitzalan  
School Principal

## Faith Community

Sunday, 31st October 2021: THIRTY-FIRST Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B

**Mk 12:28-34** ***This is the first commandment, and the second is similar to it.***

One of the scribes came up to Jesus and put a question to him, 'Which is the first of all the commandments?' Jesus replied, 'This is the first: Listen, Israel, the Lord our God is the one Lord, and you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You must love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.' The scribe said to him, 'Well spoken, Master; what you have said is true: that he is one and there is no other. To love him with all your heart, with all your understanding and strength, and to love your neighbour as yourself, this is far more important than any holocaust or sacrifice.' Jesus, seeing how wisely he had spoken, said, 'You are not far from the kingdom of God.' And after that no one dared to question him any more.

### October World Mission Month

Jesus' mission of creating a world where all can live a fully dignified life is still far from completion. Therefore, the Church dedicates the entire month of October to reflect on the central mission of the Church: spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. All classes have been learning about how living out Mercy Values are connected to this mission and how to make a positive difference in our world. They also enjoyed wearing a crazy pair of socks today, as part of our Socktober event 'Sock it to Poverty'.

Pope Francis' message for World Mission Sunday this year reflects on the theme: **"We cannot but speak about what we have seen and heard" (Acts 4:20)**. He reminds us that, "as Christians, we cannot keep the Lord to ourselves," as we "recall with gratitude all those men and women who by their testimony of life help us to renew our baptismal commitment to be generous and joyful apostles of the Gospel." To read Pope Francis' message for World Mission Day 2021, visit <https://www.hbgdiocese.org/WMS>.

### Year 6 Graduation Mass

Graduation Mass will be held on Tuesday 7 December at 7pm at St Patrick's Church. We welcome all Year 6 students and their parents, as well as siblings who live in the family home, to join us. Students are to wear their full Summer Uniform that evening.

### Project Compassion

On behalf of Caritas Australia, I would like to thank the entire St Patrick's community again for the generous donation earlier this year towards Project Compassion 2021. We recently received a certificate of appreciation for our amazing efforts.

Through your generosity and by aspiring to "Be More", you are assisting some of the world's most vulnerable people build better futures for themselves, their families and their communities.



### Plastic Bread Tags for Wheelchairs

It is great to see that some companies have recently started using cardboard bread tags! Please continue to send in any plastic bread tags that you collected during lockdown or that you come across between now and the end of the year.

This is an ongoing collection that we will continue next year. Please help us collect as many as possible so we can not only reduce landfill but also to raise funds to purchase wheelchairs for people in South Africa.

### Mary, Queen of the Family - Parish News

Churches are now open to the entire community and MQOF Parish has resumed normal Mass services. They will also continue to LIVE stream the Sunday 10am Mass. Due to the 4sqm rule, numbers will be capped at 250 people. There are other restrictions such as wearing masks and QR code registration. For the latest news and updates from Mary, Queen of the Family Parish, please visit their [website](#) and follow their [Facebook page](#). Here is a link to their last [Newsletter](#).

### Sacramental Process - First Reconciliation and Confirmation

The remaining sacramental programs are postponed until next year, due to current COVID restrictions around face to face meetings. We anticipate that the new sacramental dates for 2022 will be available in early February. Please note registrations will be moving to an online platform, therefore any application forms submitted this year, will need to be resubmitted. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the parish sacramental coordinator Gerald "Ged" Oblea via email [sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au](mailto:sacraments@mqofblacktown.org.au) or phone 02 9622 1125.

Mrs Natalie Coghlan  
Religious Education Coordinator

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**November 1st:** Angok AngokDut, Jack Jones & Jessica Malouf

**November 4th:** Kendrick Florentino

**November 8th:** Jarwyn Quartey

**November 11th:** Gabriel Jacobi



**November 2nd:** Japji Kaur

**November 6th:** Talana Blackler

**November 9th:** Lance Mayo, Navraj Sidhu

**November 12th:** Siyara Gauchan

### Book Club is Going Paperless At St Patrick's!

Scholastic Book Club will be moving to online orders only from now on, your child will no longer be receiving the Book Club brochure to take home. To view the catalogue and to make your **Credit card** purchases simply visit [scholastic.com.au/LOOP](https://www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP) OR download the **LOOP** app. Your order will be electronically linked to the rest of your school's order.

Want to learn more? See our Parents' guide [scholastic.com.au/parents](https://www.scholastic.com.au/parents)



**Issue 7 is currently open for orders until November 22.**



With all of our wonderful children returning to face to face schooling this week, we are having a huge push to get back all of our overdue library books. With the Lockdown occurring so suddenly at the end of Term 2, we have a very large number of overdue books that need to be brought back to school before we can commence Library borrowing again. Please see link for more information [Library News](#).

Thank you,  
Allison Gudaitis  
Book Club organiser

## TECHNOLOGY

**Technology Topic:** Squid Games. The newest threat to the sacredness of our children's childhood innocence. Please read the following article which will support you to support your own family should they be exposed to this game in which failure results in death. Characters are tortured and killed. There are threats of sexual violence and themes of the highs one gets from gambling, winning and conning. Please be very aware of what your children are playing. **This game is NOT for primary aged students.** [Squid-game-and-children's-exposure](#)

## St Patrick's Online Communication

**Compass Parent Portal** - St Patrick's encourages parents to download the Compass Parent Portal app once your child is enrolled at our school. It will be our primary communication tool that will facilitate effective communication between parents and school. All **school notes, notices and newsletters will be sent through Compass.**

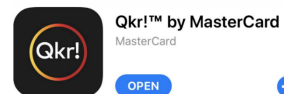


To access the Compass Parent Portal app, simply download the '**Compass School Manager**' app, available through Apple Store or Google Play. It is suitable for both iPhone and Android Smartphones.

**QKR! (pronounced 'quicker') Mobile Payment App** - St Patrick's is now a 'cashless school'. QKR! is an easy to use mobile phone application that is also suitable for both iPhone and Android Smartphones. This service is currently available for all payments **except for school fees**. Communications will be distributed as new events and products become available for purchase.

Also follow us on [Facebook](#) for the latest news, upcoming events and lots more!

If in need, please *don't hesitate to contact the school office on 8869 6000.*



### Notification of Student Leaving

The Diocesan Tuition Fee and School Building Levy are annual fees billed in Terms 1, 2 and 3. A pro rata fee based on weeks enrolled for the year is made for students entering the School part way during a term. If a student leaves the School during a term, no refund will be made in respect of the remaining portion of that term. Other School Based Fees for items such as camps, excursions, materials or technology may be charged to a student's account and are payable under the same conditions as Diocesan Fees. **A Term's notice in writing must be given to the School Principal before the withdrawal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable.**

### Semester 2 2021 School Academic Reports

In Week 9, parents and carers will receive their child's/children's school report electronically via the Compass Parent Portal. Moving forward, Semester Reports will no longer be printed to take home with your child/children. If you have not provided the school your email address or if you are unable to log into the Compass Parent Portal, please contact the school office.

### School Fees

#### School fees are currently overdue.

We understand that COVID-19 has affected the financial circumstances of many families in a sudden and unprecedented way. As always, if your family requires assistance due to financial hardship, please contact our School office to discuss options for fee support - 8869 6000. Further information is available here: [News & Events/Announcements](#)

Many thanks,

Office Administrator, Mrs Browne



# St Patrick's Primary School

**Are you looking for a primary school to enrol your child?**

We are now taking enrolments for Kindergarten 2022. We would love to meet you and take you for a virtual tour of our beautiful school.

**Don't Miss Out!**

**Enrolling Now for Kindergarten 2022**



**Download an enrolment application form from our school website**  
<https://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/Enrol-Now/How-to-enrol>

**Follow us on**  
<https://www.facebook.com/stpatsprimaryblacktown>



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