



# St Patrick's News

## Term 1, Issue 3- March 4th 2022



### Dates to Remember

**March 7th:** Book Fair Sale take place (Monday - Friday)

**March 10th:** Eye checks for Kindergarten & Catholic Schools Week Liturgies

**March 11th:** Pupil Free Day -  
**NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS**

**March 15th:** Tour for Kindy 2023 Families 10am

**March 17th:** Feast of St Patrick

**March 18th:** Cross Country

**March 21st:** Harmony Day & World Down Syndrome Day

**March 25th:** Feast of the Annunciation

**March 29th:** Tour for Kindy 2023 Families 10am

**April 7th:** Holy Week Celebration

**April 8th:** Last day of Term 1



Dear Parents and Carers,

This week we celebrated Shrove Tuesday and Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our Season of Lent. As we journey through Lent, we are reminded that there is always time and opportunity for a 'change of heart.'

As we strive to follow Jesus in all that we do, may we find strength and guidance in the MERCY values that guide our community: Dignity, respect, hospitality, justice, compassion, love and excellence.

***"Turn back to God."***

### 10 things to do during Lent besides giving something up:

- Each day tell your child something that makes them unique.
- Volunteer.
- Go to a weekday Mass.
- Say three nice things to your husband/ wife, siblings, parents, colleagues or children daily.
- Be kind.
- Donate things you don't need to charity.
- Replace 30 minutes of TV/computer/phone time with 30 minutes of prayer/quiet time.
- Don't complain.
- Don't buy anything that you don't need.
- Remember that Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

### The TODAY Show

What an exciting event this was! Thank you to the students who represented our school so beautifully as I was interviewed regarding the success of the RAT Test rollout and other issues related to school operations during COVID.

If you missed it, here is the link: <https://fb.watch/bvLVkCpsPc/>

**Catholic Schools Week:** On Thursday March 10th, we will invite parents/carers to special Catholic Schools Week Liturgies. If attending events on site, parents MUST QR Code in and wear MASKS.

Catholic Schools Week marks the beginning of our **Enrolment period for Kindergarten 2023**. If you have a little one ready to begin in 2023, please call into the Office to collect your Enrolment pack.

*God bless you and your beautiful children,*

Monica Fitzalan  
School Principal



Sunday, 6th March 2022: FIRST Sunday in Lent - Year C

**Lk 4:1-13 *Jesus is tempted in the desert***

Today's Gospel finds Jesus in the wilderness. Are you afraid of the unknown—of “the desert”? How could a time of solitude, a time to examine ourselves, help us as we start our Lenten journey? Even when we are in “the wilderness”, Jesus is with us. How have you sensed that presence in times of worry and difficulty? What are some things you have said “no” to in your life because you have said a larger “yes” already?

***Mercy Day / Mercy Works Fundraiser***

Thank you to our community for your generous donations to Mercy Works last week. We raised \$438.50. Please see the following link to see how your donations will help <https://www.mercyworks.org.au/>

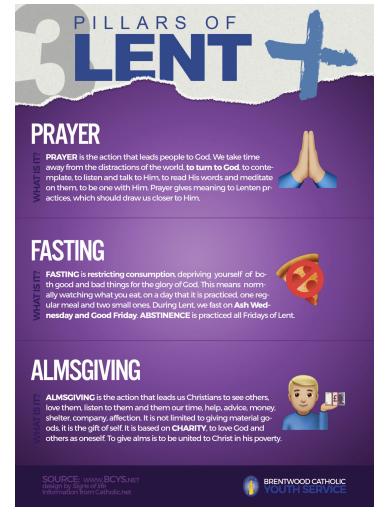
**Prayer for Ukraine**

*Loving God,  
We pray for the people of Ukraine,  
for all those suffering or afraid,  
that you will be close to them and protect them.*

*We pray for world leaders,  
for compassion, strength and wisdom  
to guide their choices.*

*We pray for the world  
that in this moment of crisis,  
we may reach out in solidarity  
to our brothers and sisters in need.*

*May we walk in your ways  
so that peace and justice  
become a reality for the people of Ukraine  
and for all the world.  
Amen.*



**Mary Queen of the Family Parish Links**

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](#).

**First Reconciliation Registration - Due Monday**

First Reconciliation process for Year 4-6 students is starting next week. Cut off date for online enrolment has been extended. To register, please log on to MQOF Parish website [via this link](#) and before Monday 7th March.

**Important Dates and Reminders!**

Project Compassion	Mini Vinnies Formation Program	Why Pray With Your Kids?
<p>This week the season of Lent began with Ash Wednesday, which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal.</p> <p>All donations are made directly to our <a href="#">school's fundraising page</a>.</p> 	<p>Open to ALL students from Years 4-6 (regardless of whether or not they are part of Mini Vinnies).</p> <p>For more information, please see the <a href="#">Mini Vinnies Registration Information page</a>. Please click here to <a href="#">register your interest</a>.</p> 	<p>Prayer is one important way we connect with God.</p> <p><a href="#">HERE</a> is a book filled with daily prayers you can use at home.</p> 

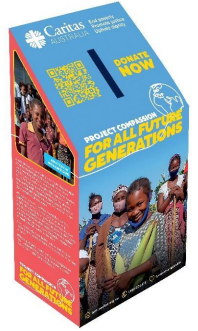
## Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal

This week the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. The theme of Project Compassion 2022 is 'For All Future Generations' and reminds us that the good that we do today will extend and impact the lives of generations to come. We encourage you to put your compassion into action this Lent through your prayer, fasting and almsgiving by supporting Project Compassion.

All donations are to be submitted online via the St Patrick's Primary School profile at:

<https://fundraise.projectcompassion.org.au/stpatrickprimaryschoolblacktown>

Please donate to your child's grade.



***Please take a look at Facebook regularly, to see photos of your children at St. Patrick's.***

### Library News

#### Library Information

A very warm welcome to you all! Mrs Pono and I are very excited to continue to be the Library staff at St Patrick's Primary School for 2022!

Our Library is filled with a variety of valuable resources and provides a dynamic learning space for staff and students to gather throughout the day. [Library News](#)

#### St Patricks Book Fair is Coming!

Our first Book Fair for 2022 will take place during our Catholic Schools Week celebrations on March 7th-11th.

[Book Fair 2022](#)

### Collecting Children early

Please ensure that appointments for students are made outside of school hours.

At the end of the day, notes are given out and important information is shared. Children are learning right up until bell time.

When you take children out of class early, it not only causes extra 'busyness' for our Office staff, but can cause your child distress as they are being called out of class and their peers ask why.

**Out of school hours appointments are best practice.**

## **RAT TESTS**

***Positive Result? Please call school immediately.***

- ***Tests to be taken each Monday and Wednesday morning***
- ***School must be notified if there is a positive diagnosis***
- ***Please note that if your child has had Covid in the last 4 weeks, they do not need to test.***



**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.

## Job Opportunities

The Early Childhood Education & Care sector is currently experiencing a severe shortage of educators and early childhood teachers.

Ambrose Activities and School Age Care (OSHC) is seeking people of all ages to facilitate activities as part of a supportive team.

- Full time, part time, casual, and permanent
- No experience necessary – training is provided
- Leadership roles for experienced Teachers and Educators.

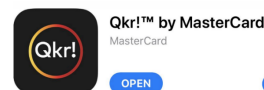
**Please click on the following link to find out more!** [Ambrose BASC Recruitment Advertisement](#)

**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.

**Please ensure that you are watching our school Facebook page and that you have signed up for COMPASS as this is how all correspondence/updates are shared with you.**

### Attendance

**Attendance - Every School Day Counts! Here Everyday Ready On Time - Morning Bell 8:55 am!**

Regular attendance at school is critical to ensuring that every student has the kind of opportunities in life that he or she deserves. Non-attendance has a variety of effects on students, both academically and socially. As you are aware, every day of attendance at school adds to your child's chances of success and achievement from Kindergarten through to high school.



**Every day at school counts towards your child's learning!**

**Absences add up quickly. If your child is absent 1 day every 2 weeks over the course of a school year, this will add up to 20 days loss of education. This is almost half a school term in a year!**

If your child is absent due to illness, please inform the school by entering in COMPASS Parent Portal, or send us an email. Alternatively you can always contact our school office and explain absences on the day. When a student is away for more than two days, a Medical Certificate will be required when returning to school.

St Patricks Attendance Liaison Officer  
Aida Almeida

#### EACH DAY MISSED:

- ▶ Puts your child behind and makes it harder for them to catch up
- ▶ Can lead to lower achievement in reading, writing and numeracy
- ▶ Can lead to gaps in learning and social connections

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### Congratulations to our Zone Team

**March 4th:** Joel Mathew

**March 5th:** Brianna Ghanoum

**March 6th:** Montana Ma'afu & Krystal Zaghtiti

**March 7th:** Alisi Aho & Ariana Orat

**March 8th:** Aleeha Brar & Samuel Keher

**March 13th:** Christian Mourad

**March 17th:** Kalan Abraham

**March 18th:** Stanley & Sophia Jug





## Around Year 3 classrooms

Year 3 started the year as the first grade to have a priest visit with Fr. Chadi. The learning cycle this term is all about the Sacraments, in particular, the Sacraments of initiation. Fr. Chadi took students to the Church and showed them a six minute video about the signs and symbols that are used during the Sacraments of Baptism, Holy Communion and Confirmation. Students were able to see the Baptismal font, the Paschal candle, the Chalice and the Ciborium. Students were engaged and loved asking Fr. Chadi questions about the Sacraments. We look forward to our next priest visit.



Year 3 teachers

## Kindergarten Enrolments 2023

**REVIEWS OF OUR SCHOOL:** Families looking to enrol at St. Patricks, always look at our Website and Facebook page. [It would be greatly appreciated if you could add a Review on our Facebook page, highlighting a positive aspect of our community.](#) St. Patrick's is certainly a beautiful community to be part of and we would love to see your affirmations. <https://www.facebook.com/St-Patricks-Primary-School-Blacktown-714911375225324/>

Please call the Office to advise them if you have a child who will be starting **Kindergarten in 2023**. We ask that all families who have a sibling starting in 2023, advise the Office within the next week so that we can confirm how many places we have available for other families. We are currently taking Enrolments and wish to help you secure a place for your child.

<https://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/Enrol-Now>



Please follow [THIS](#) link for more information regarding our Kindergarten Enrolment Process.

## Office News

### 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.**

### Leave of Absence

If your child is going on extended leave greater than 5 days, an **Application for Exemption Form** must be completed and returned to the office prior to the leave date. Please complete the following form [Application Extended Leave](#). This leave will be considered by the Principal for approval.

*Please note that any Leave time taken during term will impact on your child's learning. Our Diocesan mantra is, 'Every Child, Every Day' and students are legally obliged to attend school every day of the school year. Holidays and Leave should ideally be taken in school holiday periods.*

### School Fees

Dear Parents, you should now have received school fee statements for term 1. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact our school office on 8869 6000.

If you have changed your address please don't forget to update it by filling out the following form and returning it to us as soon as possible. [Change of Address/Contact Details](#)

Many thanks,  
Mrs Browne

### No Toys from Home at School

At St Patrick Primary School, we request that children do **NOT** bring toys from home to school. Toys brought to school can disrupt the learning at school. Whilst we understand that children may wish to carry familiar toys with them to show their friends, bringing toys from home to school can create difficult situations to manage. Hence we request that children do **NOT** bring toys from home to school.



## St Patrick's Primary School Blacktown



Looking to Enrol  
for  
Kindergarten 2023?

**2023 Enrolments Now Open!  
Don't Miss Out!**

**Contact us!  
02 8869 6000**

Email: [stpatsblacktown@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stpatsblacktown@parra.catholic.edu.au)  
Website: [www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/](http://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au/)

Is your child ready to start Kindy?  
Join us for a  
Kindy Open Day!



**Open Days**

**15th March 10am**

**29th March 10am**

**&**

**5th May 10am**

**Enrolment Packs Available Now!**

Please call our school office to organise your enrolment pack or  
download an enrolment form from our school website.

[www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stpatsblacktown.catholic.edu.au)



## OLMC OPEN DAY

Sunday, 6 March 2022  
10.00am - 2.00pm

You are warmly invited to join us for Open Day 2022.

Bookings can be made by visiting the College website [www.olmc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.olmc.nsw.edu.au)

**Courageous Advocates. Limitless Possibilities.**

**YEAR 7, 2024**  
ENROLMENT  
INFORMATION  
EVENING  
Tuesday, 29 March

MERCY / COMMISSION / JUSTICE / DIGNITY / EXCELLENCE / HOSPITALITY / STEWARDSHIP / SERVICE



ST ANDREWS COLLEGE, MARAYONG

## OPEN DAY

**8th March 2022**

**Junior Campus only**  
(116 Quakers Road, Marayong).

Tours must be booked through  
the College website via our  
[announcements](#) page.

**Tour times are**

9am, 9:45am, 11:05am,  
11:45 am, 1:15pm and 2pm



**'FAITH IN CHRIST'**

Phone: (02) 9626 4000 | [standrewscollege@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:standrewscollege@parra.catholic.edu.au) | <https://www.standrewscollege.marayong.catholic.edu.au>