



newsletter

18 February 2021

Term One

School Mass
11 March

National Day of Action
Against Bullying
and Violence
15 March

Diocesan Feast Day
St Joseph the Worker
19 March

Harmony Day
21 March

Earth Hour for Schools
26 March

Last day of Term One
1 April

Good Friday
2 April

Easter Sunday
4 April

Our School Mission Statement



Dear Parents,

The heart of Lent is making space for our God.

Yesterday we celebrated Ash Wednesday – the beginning of Lent. Each of our classes from Prep to Year 6 will have reflected on this significant event in our liturgical calendar. When I was a child the ashes were a reminder of our mortality – “**Remember man that you are dust and unto dust you shall return....**” Today our children are reminded by the ashes that they are loved and that we all have the capacity for change and renewal – “**Remember you are a child of God**” or “**Turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel!**” are statements we say as the ashes are distributed to the children. Fortunately our children have a much clearer understanding of the symbolism of the ashes and the significance of the Lenten season that leads us to the Easter message.

As we enter the season of Lent we can sometimes pay too much attention to matters that are superficial and trivial and we can miss out on the important issues of life. The season of Lent is one of those times when the Church gives us an opportunity to address the important elements of our life in a practical way. There is little point giving up chocolate or sugar in our tea if we continue to gossip about others, or blame and nag those who are close to us. Nor is there much value in giving up a glass of wine with our meal if we are going to be moody and grumpy with those who love us. Lent is not simply a time to make sacrifices but it is a time when we are called to make choices and to make a positive effect on those we love and care about in our daily lives.

As we begin our Lenten journey towards Easter, the importance of Easter can be summed up in three letters **A, S, H** which was quite appropriate for **ASH** Wednesday.

A is for Alms giving or making the needs of others, especially the needy, our own, and has always been a focus of Christian expression. The ‘needy’ encompass children, the old, the sick, the suffering no matter where they may live. To such people, or the organisations which assist them, we can give time, a share of our talents, material resources; whatever we give should be something of ourselves, something that costs us.

S is for Sacrifice. Sacrifice requires us to give up something or to fast. In today’s materialistic society, sacrifice and fasting is somewhat regarded with ridicule. Besides the traditional notions of sacrifice through fasting, we can all look for opportunities for sacrifice. We can look to give up anger and hatred to be more patient and understanding; give up judging others to think kindly thoughts; we can give up complaining to focus on gratitude and we can give up resentment or bitterness and turn to forgiveness.

H is for Holiness. We strive for holiness through prayer. As we know, prayer is much more than simply saying words, it is the quiet engagement of our inner-self. We should endeavour to close out the noise, the trivialities, the distractions that crave our attention. In the quietness of ourselves we can draw closer to God.

Wishing you God’s blessing for the Lenten Season,

Geraldine Rostirolla
Principal

Religious Education

CHRIST HAS NO BODY

This beautiful prayer is attributed to St Teresa of Avila (1515–1582).

*Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
Compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks
compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*



All of the baptised must announce Jesus with our life, with our witness and with our words.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Yesterday we gathered for our Ash Wednesday prayer celebration. The children participated prayerfully and reflected on the meaning of Lent for them as individuals and as part of a school community. They committed themselves to prayer, fasting and giving, offered their Lenten promises and traced a cross on their foreheads. The ashes, blessed at a parish Mass earlier in the day, were held high and sprinkled as part of a general blessing.



Year 6S dramatized the Gospel and two of our Year Six students lead the singing. We also listened to Michael Mangan's beautiful hymn, "Out of Ashes."



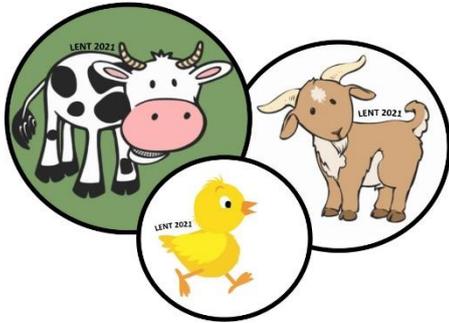
It was lovely that one of the Emmanuel Kindy classes and some of our parents were able to join us for this celebration.

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of forty days in our journey to the death and resurrection of Jesus at Easter. Find out about Lent and Ash Wednesday @ <https://www.catholic.org/lent/>

LENTEN CHALLENGES

As part of our efforts to support those less fortunate this Lent, we will be running an exciting Lenten Challenge here at school.

Last year we participated in the 'Chicks for Cambodia challenge. It was lots of fun and we all learnt about helping others. This year we will be selling chicks, goats and cows – not real ones – but buying the tokens will help to provide these animals for families in need in different parts of the world.



Students are encouraged to buy a **chick for \$1.00**, a **goat for \$2.00** or a **cow for \$5.00** and make a real difference in the life of someone they don't even know. Tokens bought will have the child's name written on it and it will be added to the sacred space in their classroom. In doing this we link, not only the gift to real world action, but also to the teachings of Jesus. 'Preferential Option for the Poor' is one of the church's Catholic Social Teachings.

The class that buys the most chicks, goats and cows will lead the school in a special dance at Assembly in Week Nine.

40 ACTS IN 40 DAYS

"Aspire not to have more, but to be more." (St Oscar Romero)

This Lent I invite you to join me in undertaking a challenge to enrich your life and the lives of others.



"Never see a need without doing something about it." (St Mary of the Cross Mackillop)

Each day of Lent do something to improve the day of someone else. It might be a smile, a welcome, a helping hand, a listening ear, a simple act of kindness, a prayer, your time.

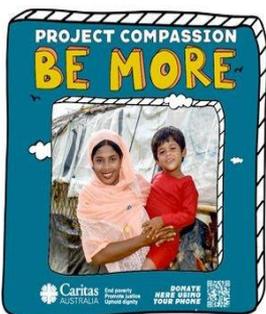
"Not all of us can do great things, but we can do small things with great love." (St Teresa of Calcutta)

I think it is a good idea to plan what you are going to do, but be assured that lots of opportunities to help others will arise during Lent. Be open, be spontaneous, be kind.

The second part of this challenge is to appreciate what you have and who you are. To be grateful is to thank God for his many gifts.

"What if you woke up today with only the things you thanked God for yesterday?" (Unknown)

CARITAS - PROJECT COMPASSION



'BE MORE' is the theme of Project Compassion 2021.

This Lent all classrooms will have a Project Compassion collection box and poster. Students will learn about their brothers and sisters around the world who are less fortunate than themselves, and be encouraged to offer their prayers and practical assistance.

Don't be surprised if your child asks you for a job, so they can earn some money to put in the Project Compassion box in their classroom.

For more information, about the work of CARITAS and projects that the 2021 Project Compassion Appeal will support, check out the Caritas Australia website @ <https://lent.caritas.org.au/#blank>

OUR CATHOLIC IDENTITY – WE NEED YOU

As previously advertised, our school community is participating in the Enhancing Catholic School Identity Project this year. The Project aims to assist schools to understand better how their Catholic identity is expressed in work and practice and to support them in their future development.



All members of the Emmanuel community are encouraged to be involved. Staff, parents and students are asked to complete surveys that will provide feedback on the Catholic Identity of our school. Our Year Five and Year Six students will participate in the survey at school. Most of our staff completed the surveys last Friday as part of the Bishop's Inservice Day.

In order for us to gauge the Catholicity of our school we would like as many parents as possible to complete this survey.

Please advise your child's classroom teacher when you have finalised your survey, as the class with the most parent participation will celebrate with a pizza lunch.

To complete the survey: www.ecsi.site/au/user/

1. Go to www.ecsi.site/au/user/
2. Enter the general ECSIP Website password: **Ghj654**
3. Click on "New User"
4. Enter your school's entry code: **N76p8S** or select Emmanuel School Mt Pleasant from the dropdown menu.
5. You will be given a login and password – write them down, email them to yourself or print them out. You will need them to return to your survey.
6. You can begin answering questions and return to the survey at any time.
7. When you return go to "continue your previous session" and enter the login and password you saved/printed out.
8. You can go back to edit your answers at any time.
9. Your answers are confidential to you. There are no right or wrong answers.
10. We would like parents to complete the surveys before Friday 26 March.

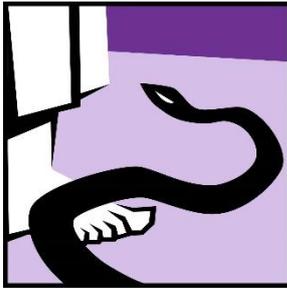
SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

Students enrolled in the 2019/2020 Sacramental Program, which was suspended due to the pandemic, have been working hard at home with their families to prepare for Confirmation and First Communion. Parents of these students are reminded that interviews will be held at the Parish Centre next week. Bishop Michael will be here in March for Confirmation and candidates will receive Communion for the first time in May.



Please pray for these students as they prepare for and receive the sacraments.

In May, students in Year Four and above will be invited to enrol in the parish's next Sacramental Program (Penance, Confirmation, Eucharist). More details closer to the information and registration session.



THIS SUNDAY'S READINGS:

Genesis 9:8-15

God establishes a covenant with Noah and his descendants.

1 Peter 3:18-22

As life was saved by the ark, so are our lives saved in Baptism.

Mark 1:12-15

After forty days in the desert, Jesus proclaims the reign of God.

For weekly Gospel readings, reflections and meditations go to <http://www.prayasyoucan.com.au/>

Download this week's parish bulletin @ <https://rok.catholic.net.au/parish/mackay-st-josephs/#>

For Parish News, updates and to book for weekend Masses go to the **Catholic Parishes of North Mackay and Farleigh** Facebook page.

Share in Daily Mass from St Joseph's Cathedral @

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQeYD6B2cSvFb4zqStn_Brg

VIRTUE OF THE FORTNIGHT – FRIENDLINESS

Friendliness is being a friend, through good times and bad. You take an interest in other people and make them feel welcome. You share your belongings, your time and yourself. Friendliness is the best cure for loneliness. No one is left out when you are friendly.

“I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.” (Maya Angelou)



Noeleen Kliese
Assistant Principal Religious Education

Curriculum Corner

SPELLING STRATEGIES				
<i>Good spellers use a combination of all these ways to remember how to spell words</i>				
Sound 	Visual 	Meaning 	Connecting 	Checking 
<i>What can I hear? What do I know about what I hear?</i>	<i>What is the shape of the word? What are the patterns within the word?</i>	<i>Does the meaning help with the spelling?</i>	<i>Are any parts like other spelling I know?</i>	<i>How can I be sure?</i>
c-a-t, sh as in ship o could be oh, ough or ow	Tall short, short tall - look rhyming words	Unfolded, triangle/tricycle.	Mnemonics 'piece of pie' Personal connections	Word wall, dictionary thesaurus

Twice a year (Term 1 and 3) students are asked to complete a Diagnostic Reading Assessment (DRA). The purpose of this assessment is to:

- Help identify students' skills and plan for timely instruction in reading engagement, fluency, accuracy and comprehension.
- Monitor student growth on a variety of crucial skills and strategies that successful readers utilize.
- Prepare students to be successful at meeting today's classroom and testing expectations.
- Provide data to inform all stakeholders about the student's reading strengths and weaknesses.

All students at Emmanuel read at least once every day. We have continued our routine of 'read to self' in all classrooms at the beginning of each day. As part of our "Daily 5" reading framework all classrooms aim to develop consistent routines and a common language in relation to reading development. Across the Daily 5 routines children participate in several daily reading routines in small group; with a partner; teacher conferencing and whole group focus lessons. All of this teaching is reflective of students individual reading goals and informed by the Diagnostic Reading Assessment.

We aim to have all of our student's DRA's completed by the end of Week 6, and look forward to updating the "Whole School DRA Data Wall". This wall allows us to look at the reading growth and development of all of our learners. By putting faces on the data, the data becomes very real and our reaction is more responsive to ensuring all our students continue to improve. This wall creates a collective responsibility for all of our students and changes our language from "my students" within an individual class to "our students" across the whole school. The staff at Emmanuel regularly reflect on this data at Curriculum and planning meetings to ensure their teaching is responsive to where children are at in their reading learning journey.

Enjoying Home Reading

with three easy words | Parent Guide

Reading **TO** your child builds a love of reading and provides good models of how reading can sound. Reading **TO** your child helps them construct knowledge about their world and the world around them.

Expert tip: *Understandings about the world will help your child make good predictions during reading.*

Reading **WITH** your child encourages positive relationships through discussion and sharing of feelings, ideas and information stimulated by the text. Sometimes it reassures or helps children make connections when a character has similar experiences to them. Occasionally, topics in books go beyond routine household conversations and may offer an opportunity to appreciate different points of view.

Expert tip: *Talking about how you both understand the words in different ways, supports understanding of personal perspectives and tolerance of other viewpoints.*

When reading **BY** themselves, your child improves their *fluency* by practising known words within the story. This can give them the great satisfaction of being an independent reader with their own book.

There are enormous benefits for children in re-reading books they enjoy, and reading them aloud to someone else. Their audience can be a parent or carer (while watering the lawn, chopping the vegies or driving the car), an older or younger sibling, or the cat/dog/fish/guinea pig! Alternatively, children can read aloud to themselves by practising in front of the mirror, or recording their reading using a phone/iPad.

Expert tip: *'Out loud' reading develops fluency, phrasing and expression.*



Helpful Hints to Support Reading @ Home

Independent Reading:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2bnLid-zmL8>

Difficult Texts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f4NbincN3Qg>

Before, During and After:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXXZmGtbLX4>

Reading Prompts:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zPlqQoF6QSw>

Janine Refalo
Assistant Principal Curriculum

APA News

PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS

To engage a larger audience "Parent Information sessions" will be presented as Zoom Recordings this year. The purpose of the change in format is to enable more parents to access the session at a time and place that best suits you so as this important information is disseminated more widely throughout our School Community.

Teachers are currently preparing the zoom recordings and they will be ready for viewing at the end of next week. Details of how to access the recordings will be published in next weeks newsletter.

Of course parents are always welcome to make an appointment to meet with their child's teacher should the need arise.

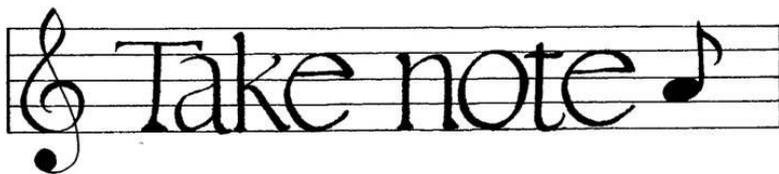
Amanda McDonald
Assistant Principal Administration

School Fees

Term 1 School Fee Statement was emailed home to all families Thursday 11th February. The Statement is also available via Parent Lounge. If you have not received your statement, please contact the Finance Office immediately.

A 70% Tuition Fee Discount is available to Parents/Carers with an eligible means-tested government Health Care and Pensioner Concession card. These cards must meet eligibility criteria for this concession to apply. Details of eligible cards are attached to this newsletter. Please provide details to the Finance Office if you have an eligible card.

School Choir

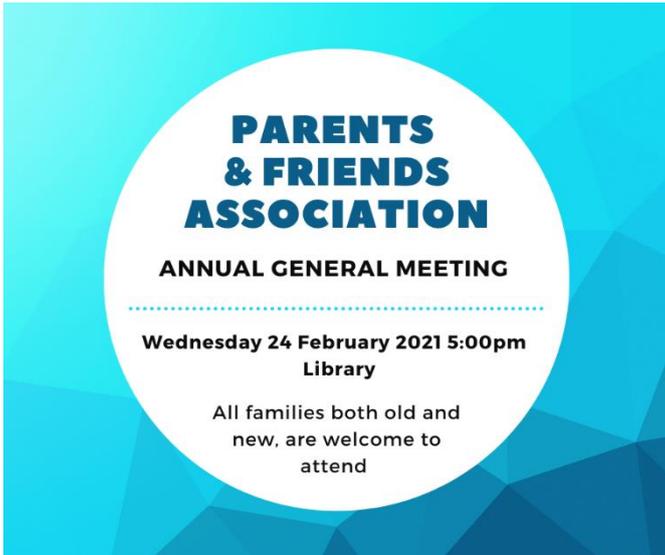


SCHOOL CHOIR
WE ARE BACK FOR
2021!



School Choir will start rehearsals take place each Wednesday in the Music Room starting at 8am.

All students from Years 4, 5 and 6 are welcome.



Stay connected with us by following our Facebook page for regular updates, photos and stories.

Tuckshop News

Thank you to all the parents who have returned volunteer forms offering their help in our Tuckshop, it is greatly appreciated.

We still have a number of days a week where we are in need of some help. If you are available to come in and help, please contact the office. It's only one day a month for a couple of hours and we always have a great time! We will even make you a delicious lunch.

Please Note: It is imperative that volunteers **DO NOT** attend tuckshop if they are unwell, have anyone at home who is unwell, have been in contact with anyone who has COVID-19 (awaiting test results), or recently returned from overseas. Thank you.

VOLUNTEER ROSTER - TERM 1 WEEK 5

- Mon 22 February: Wendy Hovinga-Kila
- Tues 23 February: Mel Hudson
- Wed 24 February: **HELP WANTED**
- Thur 25 February: Lara LeGarde
- Fri 26 February: Teresa Crowe
Mark Ayles



Angie McGowan/Carly Nicholas
Tuckshop



positive partnerships

Working together to support school-aged students on the autism spectrum

FREE WEBINAR SUPPORTING LEARNING AT HOME



Be part of an interactive hour where you will have the opportunity to listen, share and learn with parents/carers, teachers and others who support individuals on the autism spectrum.

During this webinar, we will explore and share strategies that support families and school staff with students working and learning in their home environment.

This webinar will support both families and school staff to:

- reflect on the teaching skills families have as the first educators of their children
- consider the principles of structured teaching, universal design and visible learning
- explore and share strategies that can support learning in the home environment
- discuss the importance of communication and partnerships to enrich home learning.

There are two different session times to choose from.

 **Tuesday 2 March, 2021 –**
7:00pm - 8:00pm AEDT

 **Wednesday 3 March, 2021 –**
1:00pm - 2:00pm AEDT

All of our webinars are free and participants that attend receive a certificate following the completion of the webinar.



To register for this webinar please click on your preferred date above or visit positivepartnerships.com.au



Help our Kids get Safely to School

Become a School Crossing Supervisor and make a real difference to the lives of school children.



Working with us you will:

- be paid a generous casual rate of pay with leave loading
- be entitled to long service leave
- have access to the government superannuation scheme



Where: Emmanuel Catholic Primary – Baxter Drive

Hours: Up to 15 hrs per fortnight- Crossing times are as follows mornings 8.00am to 9.00am & afternoons are 2.45pm to 3.15pm

Pay: Casual rate: \$30.34 per hour

Duties: Assist children crossing roads at local schools

- Training is provided
- You will be required to undergo a medical & working with children

Blue Card check provided by the Department of Transport & Main Roads

Contact: The School or Road Safety Officer Karen Cantoni on 0409 511 542 for application forms



MACKAY ATHLETICS CLUB

Sign-on and Information Day

Saturday 27 February 2021
Anytime between 9am-1pm

Mackay Aquatic & Recreation Complex
193 Boundary Road, Ooralea
(CQ University end)

Ages from 5 to Masters

1st club day, Sat 6 March 12.30pm
Trial period available
www.mackayathletics.com.au
for more information or call
0466 383 190

WHERE THE DIFFERENCE IS YOU

Principal's Assistant - Administration Officer
Catherine McCauley College, Mackay

An exciting opportunity exists to join the foundation staff of this new college. Applications are now invited for this term time role (30hpw) from 22 March 2021 - hours are expected to increase over time to meet growing demand

Visit our website and apply today!
www.rok.catholic.edu.au

Applications close 5 March 2021



**CATHOLIC
EDUCATION**
SCHOOL OF PROFESSIONALS

Catholic Education is committed to best practice in student protection policies and procedures.



UNIFORM SHOP OPEN
TUESDAY AND THURSDAY
2:30pm - 2:55pm