Catholic Life & Mission
Kevin Coote, Religious Education Co-ordinator

Sunday, 25 May 2014: Sixth Sunday of Easter - Year A
Jn 14:15-21
‘Anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him’

Gospel Reflection – Dianne Bergant
We live in hope because we have been blessed with the opportunity of participating in the exaltation of Jesus. This hope is based on promises: the promise that we will not be left orphaned when Jesus returns to his Father; the promise that we will be comforted by the Spirit whom Jesus will send. It is trust in God that enables us to live in this world as if the promises have already been fulfilled, for in fact, it is precisely such living that fulfils them.

We have not celebrated the Ascension, and yet all three readings speak of the Spirit. The same Spirit, who quickened the resurrected life of Jesus, enlivens us. This Spirit strengthens, comforts, guides and inspires us. Life in the Spirit requires that we conform our lives to the commandments of God, not in a legalistic or constraining way but out of love. The love that comes to us through the Spirit will then overflow into the lives of others, and we will be agents of God’s love in the world.

The Spirit given by Christ is mediated through the laying on of hands. This still happens in our day in the gentle touch of friends, in the loving touch of parents, in the healing touch of those who cure both the body and the spirit. The liturgical year is preparing us for the Ascension of Jesus into heaven, and Jesus is preparing us for life in the Spirit here on earth. This is the reason for our hope.

A reminder that this Sunday a Family Mass will be celebrated at 9:00am, with Year Five students leading the ministries. We look forward to the Reconciliation candidates joining us also. It would be wonderful to have many students and their families from across the school with us.
**Hearing Test**

Owing to the overwhelming response to the Central Coast Hearing testing, the testing will take place over several days – 26th May, 2nd June and a date to be advised. Good ear health is vital to ensure children can hear and learn properly. It’s a critical aspect of improving literacy and learning outcomes for ALL children. Hearing and Ear Health often fluctuates with children, making regular checks essential. At the vastly reduced price of $30 it is highly recommended.

**Parent Prayer Session**

I invite you to our parent reflection morning, which involves meditation, prayer, discussion, blessing and coffee/tea. Come and find out about the Examen prayer technique, which all our children are using in class. Friday 13th June, 8.45-11.45am in the LARC. An invitation was emailed out earlier today. I would love to see you there......a very relaxing morning 😊.

**Baptisms**

Congratulations to the nine children who were baptised into the Catholic Church recently. It was a memorable celebration. Thank you to the parents who sent food in for the party afterwards.

**Chromebook Trial**

Students in Years 4 and 6 are about to participate in an educational trial involving the use of Samsung Chromebooks and their interaction with Google Apps for Education(GAFE) which is known as Lighthouse within the Diocese of Broken Bay. Chromebooks have been purposefully designed to work within GAFE within a very Cybersafe environment. This trial will allow students to be able to work from anywhere at any time whilst collaborating with their fellow students and teachers.

**Facebook Photos**

Please refrain from placing photos of other children, or teachers, on Facebook unless you have explicitly sought their permission.

**Coming Up**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26th May</td>
<td>Hearing tests</td>
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<tr>
<td>28th May</td>
<td>9am Kinder Liturgy</td>
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<td>29th May</td>
<td>P &amp; F meeting for Term 2</td>
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<td>30th May</td>
<td>Athletics Carnival</td>
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<td>2nd June</td>
<td>Hearing tests</td>
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<td>Kinder 2015 interviews and screeners</td>
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<td>5th</td>
<td>Y6 Allwell testing for High School</td>
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<td>6th</td>
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<td>9th</td>
<td>Long Weekend Public Holiday</td>
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Let us remain open to the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives and show one another the face of God through our words and actions.
**GREETINGS FROM FR DARIUSZ**

Thank you to all the parents who attended the 1st Reconciliation Education evening on Wednesday. I look forward to meeting those who were unable to attend after the 9am mass this Sunday.

Parents are reminded of the need to take children to Mass each weekend, but specifically during the weeks of the sacramental program.

See you all at the Family Mass this Sunday at 9am, and thanks again to Year 5 for helping to organise it!

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**48TH WORLD COMMUNICATIONS SUNDAY**

The Australian Bishops Conference advises that this Sunday is World Communications Sunday and to celebrate the occasion, has created a digital storytelling project entitled *Stirring Hearts*.

Twelve digital stories described as “unique, blessed and often-times a challenging story of life and faith”, of 5 to 6 minutes each are available for viewing via YouTube videos published on the Stirring Hearts website: [www.stirringhearts.org.au](http://www.stirringhearts.org.au)

Parents I encourage you to view these Good News stories. Teachers and Catechists, these could be a valuable resource for you as well the site provides a toolkit of education resources.

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**PINT SIZED PADDIES**

for kids in Years 5 to 8, held in the Hall, TONIGHT Friday May 23, 7pm $2 per child!

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**FREE SEMINAR for PARENTS and STUDENTS Year 5 to Year 8**

Supporting Learning at Home

- What’s a parent’s role? Time to step up - or step back?
- Understand the ‘Middle Years’ development (Year 5 to Year 8)
- Insights into learning and practical strategies for vital time management & organizational skills.

**WEDNESDAY 18 JUNE**

St Joseph’s Catholic College EAST GOSFORD

7 – 8.30 pm

Proudly sponsored by the Broken Bay Diocesan Parent Council (DPC)

ALL WELCOME – NO COST

RSVP: [www.brokenbayparentcouncil.com](http://www.brokenbayparentcouncil.com)
On Tuesday 20th May, 11 children represented St. Patrick’s in the Diocesan Cross Country. The students were lucky to have beautiful weather to run the hilly course. Congratulations to Sterling Witt, Sophie Holliday, Ashley Treacy, Jessica Sawyer, Marcus Sparacino, Sinead McMenamin, Keenan White, Nicholas Vane-Tempest, Kye Holliday, Fynn Robinson and Annika Hansen who all participated on the day. An extra congratulations to Nicholas Vane-Tempest who came 7th in the 8/9 years boys and Sophie Holliday who came 1st in the 11 years girls, and will move on to the next level in competition. Well done!

Congratulations to the boys who represented St Patrick’s at the Catholic Independent Rugby League Cup held at Toukley yesterday. Whilst they didn’t score a win in any games, they played well and represented the school superbly. Many thanks to Mrs Peters who helped train the boys and to Mr Mitchell for, well…. being Mr Mitchell! We look forward to next year!!

KEYBOARD LICENCES FOR YEARS 3-6

Students in Years 3 to 6 have been busy showing Mrs Morris what they know about staff notation and playing the keyboard in order to get their 2014 Keyboard Licence! Year 3 need to play ‘Rain Rain Go Away’ on the keyboard, Year 4 ‘Pease Porridge Hot’ and Years 5 and 6 ‘Charlie Over the Ocean’. It is not only tricky to get the correct notes and keys but also to match the rhythm of the song! Well done to those who
**Why not visit the Impact Markets in 2014!**

19 Chetwynd Rd, Erina
(Road opposite McDonalds on Terrigal Dr)

![Image](impact-centre.png)

*J Please place on your fridge for handy reference J*

Large indoor market with cafe and kids’ play centre
Plus a huge variety of stalls selling items for the whole family

- June 28
- July 26
- August 23
- October 25
(All Saturdays 9am-2pm)

For more info please phone Sue at Fairhaven
43233566 or 0407757866
sue.chidgey@fairhavenservices.org.au
www.facebook.com/FairhavenServices

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**NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED IN THE SCHOOL GROUNDS**

**Community News...**

10% of all sales will be donated to
St Patricks Catholic Primary School when you shop online at


Or
call Julia direct on 0497771510 for a catalogue!
AGENDA
P&F meeting
Thursday 29 May at 7.30PM
LOCATION: THE LARC, PRIMARY CAMPUS
All Welcome

• Prayer & Welcome

• Record of Attendance and Apologies

• Confirmation and acceptance of previous meeting minutes

• President’s Welcome

• Correspondence in / Correspondence out

• Reports
  ◊ Parish
  ◊ Principal
  ◊ Treasurer (inc Mothers’ Day Stall financials)
  ◊ Canteen
  ◊ Sports

• General Business
  • Disco review of Term 2 disco / organise committee for Term 3 disco (Friday 8th August)
  • Athletics Carnival – update on canteen / BBQ
  • Trivia Night – set date / organise committee (Dates available 23 August or 30 August)
  • Bunnings BBQ update
  • Canteen Volunteers – what can we do to increase numbers?
  • Annual Dinner Dance – discussion of possible dates for 2015 / would it suit school community to move to a different time of the year?
  • Fathers’ Day stall – set date / organise committee
  • Air conditioner / Heating Options – Rachael to explain our current position on this issue

• Matters for future consideration

Please note: Nibbles, tea, coffee, and non-alcoholic beverages will be served at the meeting.

Term 3 Meeting:

IN THE LARC, Primary Campus
Annual General Meeting
Thursday 21 August 2015 at 7.00pm
Followed by Term 3 P&F meeting at 7.30pm
ALL WELCOME.

Any matters for future consideration to be emailed to spegp&f@dbb.catholic.edu.au by Thursday 14th August.
“Would you like to come to my party?” Ella asked Sefra. “It’s on Sunday in two weeks.” “Thanks Ella, I’ll ask my parents if I can come,” said Sefra.

Sefra wanted to go to Ella’s party, but it was at the same time as her weekly language class. Sefra’s parents always told her how important it was to keep up her culture and language. Would they let her miss the language class and go to Ella’s party instead? Sefra hoped they would.

Though she was excited about the party, Sefra also felt nervous. Not everyone who might be going was as good a friend as Ella. Some children in Sefra’s class teased her because she didn’t look or speak like they did. They stopped when Ella told them not to be mean, but it still hurt.

Sefra hoped the other children at the party would be friendly and play with her.

Being part of two cultures

Being part of two cultures can get complicated at times. Children may find there are differences in values and expectations. Sometimes there might be difficult choices. When different sets of expectations don’t match, it can make it hard for children to feel like they belong.

When cultural differences are respected and a sense of belonging develops, there are many benefits to mental health and wellbeing for children, families and schools. By working together, schools and families can help children from all cultural backgrounds to understand, respect and appreciate diversity in others. Helping children to understand difference encourages them to feel good about themselves, understand where they fit in the world, and appreciate diversity in others. When adults behave in ways that are open and accepting it can help to teach children to respect diversity and embrace individual differences.

Everybody needs to feel accepted, respected and included. Feeling welcome and at home in both cultures is very important for positive mental health and wellbeing.

Australia is home to people from many different cultural backgrounds. Creating a positive sense of community for everyone involves learning to understand and appreciate others’ values, experiences and beliefs so that together we can build a caring and accepting society that supports mental health and wellbeing.

Parenting is rarely easy

Being a parent in a new country has added challenges. Just as it can be difficult for children to learn to be part of two cultures, learning to parent ‘between’ cultures can be stressful for families too. Being open to adapt your parenting to suit your child’s individual needs, and your own, can be beneficial for all families.
How parents and carers can help

- Tell your children stories to help them to develop a strong cultural identity and share a sense of pride in your culture.
- Talk to children about the Australian cultural values you appreciate. This will help them see how they can be part of both cultures.
- Seek support and advice from people you trust. Talking with relatives and friends who understand your values can help you think through the different problems you might face as a parent.
- You can contact your child’s school if you have any questions about your child or their education. Schools welcome questions from parents and carers.
- Take an active interest in activities at your child’s school. Get to know your child’s teacher and look for ways to get involved at school, for example, by helping in the classroom or by joining parent working groups.
- If children complain of being teased or bullied, be sure to tell your child’s teacher so the school can take action to stop it.

Things schools can do

- Provide opportunities for students to express and listen to different people and their cultural perspectives to develop respect for and appreciation of diversity.
- Talk to parents, carers and families about their cultural values and needs.
- Respect individual differences – don’t assume that membership of a cultural group means everyone has the same values and needs.
- Invite family members into the classroom to observe and participate.
- Promote and model inclusive behaviour, for instance, by providing information and school correspondence in a number of appropriate languages for parents and carers.
- Work with interpreters or multilingual aids to ensure accurate communication with parents or carers whose English language skills are limited.
- Encourage social opportunities for parents, carers and families to support and learn from each other.
- Link families with local services to provide culturally-appropriate support and assistance.

The following websites may be of interest

About diversity: www.cyh.com
Translated materials on parenting: www.kidscount.com.au
Raising children in a different culture: www.raisingchildren.net.au

This resource is part of a range of KidsMatter Primary information sheets for families and school staff. View them all online at www.kidsmatter.edu.au