Greetings,

In this week’s Gospel (the fifth Sunday of Easter), Jesus says:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."

John 15:5

In this passage, Jesus told his disciples a story to teach them the importance of staying connected to him. Jesus used a vine in his example so that his disciples would understand. Today we think of the ways we stay connected, such as Skype, Facebook, prayer, talking, telephones and other digital devices.

A vine is a plant with a lot of branches growing out from it and often the branches have fruit on them. If it is a grapevine, the branches should have grapes on them. Have you ever seen a branch that has broken off a tree or a vine? It withers up and dies. It is only good for firewood.

Jesus said, "I am the vine and you are the branches. If you remain in me, you will have much fruit, but apart from me, you can do nothing." Jesus wants us to produce a lot of fruit. Good fruit like being kind, generous, and faithful. Most of all, he wants us to love others as he has loved us.

Can we do that on our own? No. Just as the lamp must be plugged in before its light can shine, and just as the branches must be connected to the vine before they can produce fruit, you and I must stay connected to Jesus to produce the good fruit that God expects of us. That’s our challenge!

Adapted by Jacqueline Fletcher © Sermon4Kids 2015

Mother’s Day

Next Friday at 9.00am we will be having our annual Mother’s Day Mass followed by a morning tea in the hall. We would love to see as many mums, grand-mothers, great-grandmothers, aunties and any other significant female role model in your family! These days’ children have lots of important women in their lives that help nurture and raise them. As they say, it takes a village to raise a child! Bring your village along to celebrate with us.
Secret Mother’s Day Business!

We are hoping to put together something very special for our Mother’s Day Mass! I am asking for photographs of our mothers, grandmothers or any other significant female role model in your family. Please email these photographs to: jacquiefletcher77@gmail.com Please do not send in original photographs as we do not have the facilities to scan those into digital images. We can only accept emailed photographs! I look forward to receiving notifications that the inbox is full!!

Keep in your Prayers

Please keep Karen, Jeff and Luke (6 Gold) and Josh Hayhurst in your thoughts and prayers. This week Karen lost her grandfather and the boys their great-grandfather. We are praying with you and for you at this difficult time.

Family Life Matters

Attached to this week’s newsletter is the Family Life Matters newsletter which always provides families with different opportunities to grow in faith.

Baptism

Often families attend our school and some family members may not have been officially welcomed into a life with Christ through the Sacrament of Baptism. Baptism is considered the basis of Christian life; the doorway to receiving the other Sacraments. If your journey is leading you in the direction of Baptism, please come and speak to Father Tadeusz or Colleen at the Parish Office 4325 1042 or myself. Our school would love to be part this experience with you.

May Christ’s peace be with you all!
Jacqueline Fletcher

FROM OUR PRINCIPAL.............

Enrolments

Last night we held the Parent Information night for parents considering sending their child to St Patrick’s here in kindergarten next year. We had a very healthy attendance of new families who were very impressed by what they saw on the school tour, and what they heard. I would like to thank the school captains for sharing their thoughts about St Patrick’s. They did a wonderfully authentic job in promoting various aspects of the school and it certainly made my job sharing the benefits of being a part our fantastic school community much easier. Thank you also to Ms Perry, Ms Fletcher and Mrs McNally who came along and helped out on the night.

It is vital that any present families contact the office as soon as possible to get an enrolment form and return it so that we can set up an interview and screen time. If you know of someone who has a child ready for school please let them know enrolments are now being taken. Enrolment forms are due back to school by Friday, 30th May. It would be great if we could receive them prior to this so that we can begin the process.

ST PATRICK’S PARISH NEWS

Greetings from Fr Tadeusz

Enrolment

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Morning Assembly
One of the lovely things about being a part of the St Patrick’s school community is the involvement and the interest shown by parents in their child’s education. It is great to share the morning assembly on the Infant’s side with mums and dads each day. A small challenge for the teachers on occasions is the noise level from traffic, each other and parents. I would ask that when the teachers are talking to the children that parents would please listen to the messages and whilst we are all sharing our school prayer that parents please either join in or demonstrate to the children the appropriate silence and how to be reverent at particular times. I thank you in anticipation of your cooperation with his matter.

Social Media Flyer
You will note a flier later in this newsletter regarding a presentation regarding social media and your children. It is certainly an area we all need to be more aware of. Please book in the date for this presentation.

Trivia Night Prize
On Tuesday I had the pleasure of taking K Blue and 2 Blue to the park for an afternoon of fun and playing. We also had ice blocks provided by a parent. When the weather clears up I will be taking 3 Blue, 4 Blue and 5 Blue to the park for a similar treat. Some parents from these classes placed secret bids at the recent trivia night to provide an afternoon with Mr Toomey. It was an enjoyable time for all involved.

Upcoming Mothers’ Day
Mums please mark in your diary next Friday 8th May, as “Mums’ Day” here at school. Mass will be celebrated at 9am followed by morning tea in the hall. You are then invited to have a chat with the principal to raise any issues, congratulate the school on the good things happening or just ask that nagging question that has been annoying you. Please come along for any or part of the morning celebration.

Uniform
As the weather at this time of year is often unpredictable, children may wear either the summer or winter uniform for the time being. Although boys may wear short sleeved shirts all year, if they are wearing long pants they also need to wear a tie.

Coming Up
5th May       Rescheduled Cross Country at Mt Penang
7th May       Mother’s Day Stall
8th May       Mother’s Day Mass, Morning Tea and Meeting with the Principal
8th May       Athletics Field Events Trials
12-14 May     NAPLAN – Yrs 3 & 5
13-15 May     Yr 6 to Canberra
19th May      ICAS Computer Test
19th May      Reconciliation Info Night & BBQ
20th May      Kindergarten Mass/Liturgy
21st May      Stage 2 Mass
22nd May      School Athletics Carnival
Sun 24th May  Year 4 Parish Family Mass
19th June     Staff Development Day – No children at school

Regards,

Paul Toomey, Principal
FROM THE MUSIC ROOM with Mrs Suzie Morris

Kindergarten showed their awesome music skills this week as we explored tempo (fast/slow), dynamics (loud/soft) and pitch (high/low) across a range of music and sounds. We moved, we sang and we twirled our way through our music lesson.

FROM THE PRIMARY MUSIC ROOM with Mrs Suzie Morris

Years 3 to 6 will be renewing their ‘Keyboard Licence’ this term as we learn more about notes on the staff and keys on the keyboard. We will be trying out finger exercises on the keyboard, reading notes on the music staff and playing a new songs this term. This week, students in Year 4, 5 and 6 undertook a quick notes quiz, to get their musical PB (personal best). From this they can tell what areas they need to focus on over the coming weeks. We will be revisiting the quick notes quiz in a few weeks, trying to beat out PB.

PRIZE FOR DECORATING OUR CHRISTMAS TREE

Recently we found out that St Patricks won one of the prizes in the Erina Fair Christmas Tree decorating competition held at the end of last year. Year 5 (now Year 6), under the creative eye of Mrs Turnbull, handmade Christmas decorations which adorned one of the Christmas Trees at Erina Fair for their annual Schools Christmas Tree Decorating Competition. The competition was a fundraiser for the RSPCA as community members were asked to vote for their favourite tree and make a gold coin donation with each vote. The three schools who received the most votes then received an Erina Fair gift card. St Patricks was one of those three top schools – thank you to our school community members who voted for our beautiful tree! We will spend our gift voucher on resources for developing social skills within our school.

PLAY POD

This week it was all about drumming rhythms and fashion in the play pod!

SCHOOL BANKING

PLEASE SEND YOUR BANK BOOK IN ON WEDNESDAY

SCHOOL BANKING AWARD WINNERS

To encourage School Banking, each week we will have a Primary and Infant Canteen Reward—Winners for This Week

Sienna Fitzgerald & Destiny Polansky

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at St Patricks!
From the P&F...

Mother’s Day Stall

Our annual Mother’s Day stall will take place next Thursday 7 May (see flyer in newsletter). All gifts are $5.00. Children who are absent or forget their money on Thursday will be given the opportunity to purchase a gift on Friday 8 May at lunchtime in the canteen.

Thanks to the following people who will be working the stalls next Thursday –
INFANTS: Annabel C, Michele G, Ange S, Jess D, Katie T
PRIMARY: Patti C, Julia C, Tressa B.

Thank you ladies – we could not do it without you.

Athletics Carnival

The P&F is happy to host the canteen and BBQ once again at the Athletics Carnival on Friday 22 May. If you are free to work an hour in the canteen, cook some sausages or help serve the children lunch, we’d love your help. Please contact Adrienne Prazauskas on 0414 509 547 or mrspraz@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

Term 2 P&F Meeting

Our term 2 meeting will be held on Thursday 28 May 6.45pm for a 7.00pm start. Please consider joining us to hear firsthand what is going on in our school community.
We need volunteers for the canteen and BBQ for the Athletics Carnival 22/5/15. If you can assist please contact Adrienne on 0414 509547.

Also, contact Adrienne on 0414 509547 or mrspraz@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer on school canteen. Mrs P is contactable anytime, so check your 2015 calendar and if you have a date in mind, even if its months away, let her know your availability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>INFANTS</th>
<th>PRIMARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY 6th May</td>
<td>David Owen</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED 0414509547</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Recess only 9.30am -11.30am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 8th May</td>
<td>Michelle Cormack</td>
<td>Adrienne Prazauskas</td>
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<tr>
<td>(ALL Day – 8.15am – 2.00pm)</td>
<td>Katie Talbot</td>
<td>Katie Ercan</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY 13th May</td>
<td>Michelle Greenwood</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED 0414509547</td>
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<td>(Recess only 9.30am -11.30am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 15th May</td>
<td>Annabel Cockerton</td>
<td>Jane Farrugia</td>
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<tr>
<td>(ALL Day – 8.15am – 2.00pm)</td>
<td>Julia Conroy</td>
<td>Adrienne Prazauskas</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY 20th May</td>
<td>David Owen</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED 0414509547</td>
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<td>(Recess only 9.30am -11.30am)</td>
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<td>FRIDAY 22nd May</td>
<td>ATHLETICS CARNIVAL</td>
<td>ATHLETICS CARNIVAL</td>
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<td>TO BE ISSUED 8th MAY</td>
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If you have dates in mind for this Term (2), please contact Adrienne on mrspraz@gmail.com or 0414 509547
Children, please bring your money on Thursday 7th May.
(No pre-ordering or prepayment necessary.)

Teachers will take each class to the stall. Children can then choose from a selection of gifts. All gifts are $5.00. Children are able to purchase more than one gift for the special ladies in their life.

Any child that is absent on the day or forgets their money will have another opportunity to purchase gifts on Friday 8th May at lunchtime at the canteen.

We will also be able to exchange gifts if siblings have purchased the same gift – just make sure you bring the gift in you wish to exchange.

Thank you
P&F Committee
Dear Parents and Carers,

Following an anonymous survey of students in years 3-6, St Patrick’s has recognised the importance to provide parents and carers with some tools to help keep our students safe. Below is a graph showing the sites and apps that our year 3-6 students said they are currently using.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Social Media &amp; Internet Use</th>
<th>Year 3-6</th>
<th>Facebook</th>
<th>Instagram</th>
<th>Snapchat</th>
<th>Video Chat (Skype)</th>
<th>Clash of Clans</th>
<th>Facetime</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FaceTime</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>71</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clash of Clans</td>
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<td>Video Chat (Skype)</td>
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<td>Snapchat</td>
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<td>Facebook</td>
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<td>38</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Are you aware of how these sites operate, the safety measures that can be taken to ensure the safety of your child and the pros and cons associated with these sites?

Do you know what internet sites, apps and social media tools your child is using?

Following an anonymous survey of students in years 3-6, St Patrick’s has recognised the importance to provide parents and carers with some tools to help keep our students safe. Below is a graph showing the sites and apps that our year 3-6 students said they are currently using.

Year 3-6 social media & internet use

Please join us

Thursday 28 May from 7pm in the Primary Library as we look at how we can ensure that our children are safe online and provide resources to support this.

This presentation for parents will immediately follow the new look P&F Meeting – a quick snapshot of reports with an opportunity to comment then providing presentations such as this to support parents in their role as their child’s first educator.
Welcome  Autumn is in the air and some families will be away on holidays during April. There are however many opportunities to support and promote marriage and family ministry in May and build on the enthusiasm engendered by Pope Francis, expectations arising from the Family Synods and the focus placed on marriage and family by Bishop Peter.

World Communications Day  10 May

As the family gets special focus in two Synods and an international gathering in Philadelphia later this year, Pope Francis is highlighting the beauty and value of the family in his message for World Communications Day.

‘Communicating the family: a privileged place of encounter with the gift of love’ will be the theme of the Church’s celebration of World Communications Day. This year’s message calls all to see families as ‘a resource rather than as a problem for society’ and invites families to be examples of Christ’s love, kindness and fellowship.

Family Synod update

As part of preparations for the 2015 Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops (Family Synod) the Diocese published an online survey on 24 December 2014 seeking the views of the Diocesan community as to a series of questions drawn from the Synod preparatory document (Lineamenta).

This survey closed on 10 February 2015 and a diocesan response summarising the views of those who undertook the survey was prepared and has been forwarded to the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference. This response will form a part of the general response to be forwarded by the Bishops Conference to Rome (by 15 April 2015).

Many thanks to all those who undertook the survey, the second in connection with the Family Synod process, and once again a substantial number of responses were received with a broad range of views expressed. Unfortunately the short time frame and holiday period involved meant that some were unable to undertake the survey within the specified time period.

The 2015 Family Synod working paper (Instrumentum Laboris) is expected to issue in late May/early June and will summarise the worldwide discernment process. The General Assembly of Bishops will then take place from 4-25 October 2015 following which their report will be forwarded to the Pope to assist him in finalising guidelines for the pastoral care of the family (to be contained in an Apostolic Exhortation expected to issue in 2016).

Thought from Pope Francis...

“And I say to you how beautiful it is when I pass in your midst and I see dads and mums lift up their children to be blessed, this is an almost divine gesture.” (General Audience, 11 February 2015)
**Marriage Enrichment Opportunities**


Residential weekends at Mt Carmel Retreat Centre, Varroville, NSW:
- 19th – 21st June
- 11th – 13th September
- 20th – 22nd November

*SmartLoving Marriage Seminars and Workshops* ([http://marriageresourcecentre.org/parishes/](http://marriageresourcecentre.org/parishes/))

See website for details of coming events

*Couples for Christ* ([www.cfc-australia.org](http://www.cfc-australia.org))

See website for details of coming events

Information/reminders about the above will be forwarded to parishes closer to the dates.

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**Prayer**

May the Spirit of the living God renew our souls.

May the Spirit of the risen Christ keep ever alive in us our enthusiasm for the gospel.

May the Spirit who makes all things new protect us from losing heart.

In this Spirit may we go on rediscovering and recreating the joy of Christ in the world. Amen

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**Family Evangelisation Forum**

Dr Aoife McGrath, a theologian from Ireland currently working in Australia presented the Keynote Address on the Art of Accompaniment ‘Walking with Families and Young People on their Faith Journey’ at this Forum in the Diocese in March.

Dr McGrath invited participants to reflect on what Pope Francis says in the Joy of the Gospel about the art of accompaniment that, *all the baptised, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelisation...... The new evangelisation calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptised.*

A variety of workshops were available aimed at providing accessible and flexible ideas and resources to assist parish communities in supporting family evangelisation.

Information and resources will be made available in coming weeks for those unable to attend this Forum.

See next edition of the Broken Bay News for full story.

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Your support in working with your parish leadership to promote some of the above, as appropriate to your role/parish context, is greatly appreciated.

Janette Davidson

Diocesan Coordinator - Family Life Ministries

janette.davidson@dbb.org.au / 0409 074 908

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**2015 Diary Dates**

- **World Communications Day** 10 May
- **International Day of Families** 15 May
- **National Families Week** 15 – 21 May
- **Grandparent's Day (Feast Sts Joachim and Anne)** 26 July
- **Vocation Awareness Month (Marriage and Parenting)** August
- **Marriage Week** 13 – 19 September
- **World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia USA** 22 – 27 September
- **Respect Life Sunday** 4 October
- **Family Synod Ordinary General Assembly of Bishops** 4 – 25 October
- **National Grandparents Day** 25 October
- **International Day of People with a Disability** 3 December

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**Families Week**

The theme of National Families Week for 2015 is *Stronger Families, Stronger Communities* (a continuing of the 2014 theme). This theme highlights the important role families play as the central building block of our communities and that community wellbeing is enhanced by family wellbeing.

Suggestions and resources on how to celebrate Families Week will be sent out to all parishes and schools in coming weeks and a copy will be sent to all Parish Family Network Contacts.

Link to article on importance of family meals - [www.mercatornet.com/family_edge/view/15434](http://www.mercatornet.com/family_edge/view/15434)