Greetings,

**Reflection on Sunday’s Gospel**

The poor widow has put more in than all who has contributed

Mark 12:38-44

Some years ago, when bridge tolls were about a dollar and there were live toll-takers in the booths, it was affordable and fun to perform a random act of kindness. If you felt generous, you could pay double the toll and explain:

“I’m paying for the car behind me.”

Sometimes the second car was able to catch up with the first car and give a happy toot on the horn. Everyone was filled with joy as they exchanged smiles and friendly waves.

The scripture today contrasts show-off givers with the humble widow who secretly gave all she had. If we are truly giving to God, then only God needs to see what we have done.

We don’t have to lag behind so the second car will catch up with us. Love is its own reward.

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**Sacrament of First Eucharist**

Please keep in your prayers the children from our school and parish journeying towards making the Sacrament of First Eucharist. We pray that as they are nourished by the Body and Blood of Christ they may ever grow in God’s love and grace.

**Choir for First Eucharist**

I will be sending a note home to see if some children (perhaps siblings of those making their First Eucharist or current Choir members) might like to sing as a choir at the 11am Mass on Sunday the 22nd November! It is such a wonderful ministry to be part of the Mass in this capacity!

**What’s on:**

Week 6: First Eucharist Classes continue.

Week 7-8: Masses for the Sacrament of First Eucharist

6pm Saturday 21st November at Gosford and Somersby

11am and 6pm Sunday the 22nd November at Gosford

May Christ’s peace be with you all!

Jacqueline Fletcher
FROM OUR ACTING PRINCIPAL

Assessments and Reports
This week we started our standardised testing period. It is really important that children are at school to undertake these tests with their class to allow for optimum test conditions. School Reports will be sent home Friday 11th December. Teachers are currently compiling next year’s classes, if you have a concern please see your teacher next week as once these lists are formed, no changes can be made.

Supervision
Please note that supervision does not commence till 8.10am and therefore children should NOT be on the school grounds before then. Similarly, supervision finishes at 3.15pm when ALL children should be picked up (unless catching a bus). Children are NOT permitted on school grounds outside these hours as there is no supervision and therefore we cannot watch out for their safety. However, Before and After school Care operates on site if needed.

Leaving
It is a legal requirement that you notify the school in writing if your child/ren will be leaving the school and advise us which school they will be going to. We have a legal requirement to confirm with the next school your child’s enrolment, in case of truancy. It is also helpful for the teachers to know when they are organising classes for next year, and if we have enrolment inquiries for 2016 as to whether we have places or not. Therefore, I ask that you PLEASE let us know IN WRITING immediately if your child will not be continuing at St Patrick’s next year.

Kinder Orientation
Kinder Orientation finished today. The children were perfect and settled really well into their new school. We’ve had two sessions with the parents, one for school information and the other for school scenarios that children or parents find themselves in. This was a great opportunity for the new parents to get to know one another. At this stage our Kindergarten classes have about 22 children in each class.

World Teachers Day
Last Friday was World Teachers Day and on behalf of the staff, I can’t thank you all enough. The superb lunch that our parents put on for us was so delicious, a few teachers even took a little of the left-overs home for dinner. The kind thoughts, words and yummy gifts were lovely and it showed a great appreciation for the work our teachers do. Again “Thank you” so very much.
New Infants Playground
The Infants Playground will be redesigned over the school holidays and we can’t wait to see the finished product. Hopefully the weather will be good so they’ll get it completed before the children come back to school, otherwise it will be an excellent stimulus for writing as they watch the workers perform miracles with our playground. Last night at the P & F, Sally Harrison, the Early Learning Education Officer from the CSO, spoke to us about the importance of play and risk taking for our children. We saw some great photos of other schools that have recently undergone similar projects to us. It’s very exciting and I can’t thank our P & F enough for using the funds to support this project for our children.

Swimming Program
For the next two weeks, Year 1 and year 2 will be participating in their annual swimming program. Please ensure your children come to school with ALL their swimming requirements.

Whooping Cough
We have had several students who have tested positive for Whooping Cough. Please make yourself aware of the symptoms and if your child has been coughing, please seek medical advice.

Sick Bay Sheets
Many thanks to Katie Ercan for washing our sick bay sheets and covers.

Facebook
Please be aware that children under the age of 13 cannot be on Facebook. We have had a few students experiencing problems on this site and it really is not appropriate that our children are allowed to use it. Please see the attached flier.

Christmas
Outfits for the Christmas concert will be on the whole, simple and something you have at home. We have some costumes at school that we can use but we may need to make a few simple items, so, if you are a little handy with the sewing machine or gluing gun and would like to help us, please phone Maria in the office and to offer your help. A full costume list will be in next newsletter so that you have time to find the ‘perfect’ item

Thank you
Have a lovely weekend,
Michelle

Coming up…
Term 4
9—20 November Year 1 and 2 Swimming Program
16 November Year 5 Surf Day
17 November Year 4 Surf Day
18 November Year 6 Surf Day
19 November Year 3 Surf Day
18—20 November Year 5 Camp
27 November Year 5 at St. Peter’s
10 December Year 6 Graduation
11 December Final Assembly—Awards
14 December St. Patrick’s Carols Night at St Edward’s
15 December Year 6 Fun Day
16 December Last Day of school, Step Up 10am and Final Mass @ 11.30am
FROM THE MUSIC ROOM with Mrs Suzie Morris

IT WAS GOLD! Last week St Patrick’s performed the song ‘Gold’ along with 2100 other schools across Australia as part of the National Song Day 2015 – a campaign to promote the importance of music education in school. We have been learning the words and classes have been developing actions since the beginning of term. The guitar students have been strumming away and the recorder group blowing away – all to the tune of the sing ‘Gold’. Sebastian in Year 4 played his flute and we had students from Years 4 and 5 leading us with the actions on stage. It was really awesome - such a great opportunity to sing and perform together as a school. Thank you to everyone involved, St Pat’s really does know how to put on a show!

School Choir and the St Joseph’s and St Edward’s Combined School Band.

During Weeks 2 and 4 ALL of St Patrick’s were invited to St Joseph’s to be entertained by their award winning School Choir and the St Joseph’s and St Edward’s Combined School Band. It was a great opportunity for our students not only to see a live performance but also to experience the power of singing and instruments playing songs that they know and love – Uptown Funk and Happy! The high school staff and counterparts from the Central Coast Conservatorium of Music put on an interactive performance where students had the opportunity to sing with the choir, listen to individual instruments we learn about in music class and get up and dance. The students from Kindy to Year 6 thoroughly enjoyed it!
FROM SUZIE MORRIS OUR MUSICTEACHER

Change the words!

Figgy pudding? Good tidings?

Time for new words in this Christmas carol!

*Think Christmas! Think Australia! Think Us!*

and give this song a new sound for our

St Patrick’s Christmas Concert

Simply write down your new lyrics and leave it in the box in the Primary Music room, send it to the office or email it to Mrs Morris at susan.morris@dbb.catholic.edu.au

We wish you a Merry Christmas

We wish you a Merry Christmas  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
We wish you a Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year

Good tidings we bring  
To you and your kin

We wish you a Merry Christmas  
And a Happy New Year

Now bring us some figgy pudding

Now bring us some figgy pudding

Now bring us some figgy pudding

And a cup of good cheer

We won't go until we get some  
We won't go until we get some  
We won't go until we get some  
So bring it right here

So bring us some figgy pudding

So bring us some figgy pudding

And bring it right here

Good tidings we bring

To you and your king

We wish you a Merry Christmas

And a Happy New Year

Repeat Chorus Three Times

| Entries close Friday 20 November 2015 | Lyrics may be combined to create a new song |
2015 Chess Competition

Chess is thriving at St. Patrick’s with 105 children, drawing from Years 3, 4, 5 & 6, having signed up to participate in this year’s competition. Forty-five students from Years 5 & 6 are involved in a Knock Out Competition whilst sixty students from Year 3 and 4 are engaged in a Round Robin.

Here are just a few of these amazing chess players!!

It is so pleasing to see so many children involved in game that teaches many life skills that will benefit any person who takes up the Chess Challenge!! To the players, the game is like an unfolding drama and they live through the emotions of an exciting story.

Many educational researchers agree on the academic and social benefits which can be best summarized as follows:

(a) Chess limits the element of luck and teaches the importance of planning.

(b) Chess requires that reason be coordinated with instinct in order to make effective decisions. Proficiency in chess seems to be related to inherent logic and problem-solving ability.

(c) Chess engages in deep and thorough reflection on how to learn from one’s mistakes

(d) Chess develops one’s sense of the nature of competition and helps develop one’s own resilience to continue in difficult endeavours.

(e) Chess is an endless source of interest, amusement and satisfaction. The better one plays, the more rewarding it becomes. It is a highly organized recreation that is truly an international language in itself.

Thank you to the parents, relatives and friends who have put in the hard yards and taught their children not only how to play chess but how to also enjoy it!

The ongoing results of the competition will be displayed in the LARC where all our games take place.

Veronica Duckett
Chess Co-Ordinator
Ewan Magill's recount of The Henry Kendall Cottage visit!

Henry Kendall cottage 5/11
Vrum, vrum, vrum as the bus drove the Henry Kendall cottage.

First we went into the museum and we got to see lots of cool things.

Then we went into an old shed with old things.

Me and Logan and Matthew got to see things that blacksmiths made.

After that, I went to go and see a double dunny.

Finally, I went into a cottage and on the cottage the owner had a verd picker.

Those were the days!
Dinner Dance Prize Donations

What a wonderful night

We thank those who have generously donated a prize.

Prazauskas Family—2 x bottles of spirits (For coin toss)
St Patrick’s School—Wine packs x 4
Australian Reptile Park
U-Nique Beauty Spot
IGA East Gosford
La Bonita
Century 21 Property Connect Erina
Bill & Al’s Painting
Magnolia
Interiors by Chloe
Nicole from Five Star Day Spa Erina
Prazauskas Family
Hayhurst Family
Phil Parsons (organising committee along with Karen Hayhurst, Sonia Costa, Annabel Cockerton, Michelle Perry)
Administration - Maria Smith, Natalie Introna Colleen Carey & Colleen Kirk
Scott & Sam McKinnon (DJ)
Altar Service Ladies did the flowers – the group is organised by Helen Moore I believe
John Donnelly (bus driver)
Hall set up and clean up school parents and parishioners
Lighting – Peter McLean
Dolce Catering

Thanks!
St Patrick’s Christmas Concert

The children of St Patrick’s invite you to celebrate our Christmas end of year concert.

6:30pm doors open | 7:00pm start
Monday 14 December (Week 11)
at St Edwards School Hall
Russel Drysdale Street, East Gosford

Bring your family and friends

Gold coin donation at the door to cover hall hire and equipment

Silent Night | Christmas Day | Joy to the World | Rudolph | Aussie Jingle Bells
Deck the Shed | Away in a Manager | Starry Night | 12 Days of Christmas
SCHOOL BANKING

PLEASE SEND YOUR BANK BOOK IN ON WEDNESDAY

School banking award winners for this week:

  Stevie Smith
  Eve Quinn
  Jack Whitworth
  Layla O’Beirne

Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at St Patricks!

The Uniform Shop

Uniforms for 2016

All students requiring any new uniforms for 2016 are required to either visit the shop during opening hours or make an appointment for a uniform fitting during Term 4, 2015.

Families can purchase or try-on uniforms at the time of fitting. The uniform shop will be open in January 2016 for lay-by collection and size exchanges (if required).

Please make your Term 4 uniform fitting appointment as soon as possible.

2. Email The Uniform Shop - stpatricksprimary@alinta.com.au (the shop manager will either call or return your email to arrange a suitable time)

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP

will be open on Tuesday 17th November instead of Tuesday 10th November.

Michael Grose
Australia’s No.1 Parenting Educator

Coming to a school near you
23 February 2016

Visit www.brokenbayparentcouncil.com
Not long till the school year finishes. The kids enjoy seeing family members in the canteen. If you can help out, let us know.

We need Volunteers to ensure canteen will remain open during the year. Contact Adrienne on 0414 509547 or mrspraz@gmail.com if you would like to volunteer.

Adrienne on mrspraz@gmail.com or 0414 509547

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>INFANTS</th>
<th>PRIMARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY 11th November</td>
<td>Jay Clarke</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 13th November</td>
<td>Angela Stitt</td>
<td>Deidra Robertson</td>
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<tr>
<td>(ALL Day – 8.15am – 2.00pm)</td>
<td>Aimee Sands</td>
<td>Katie Erkan</td>
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<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY 18th November</td>
<td>Jay Clarke</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED 0414509547</td>
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<td>FRIDAY 20th November</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED 0414509547</td>
<td>Adrienne Prazauskas</td>
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<td>(ALL Day – 8.15am – 2.00pm)</td>
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<td>WEDNESDAY 25th November</td>
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<td>(Recess only 9.30am -11.30am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>FRIDAY 27th November</td>
<td>Michelle Cormack</td>
<td>Adrienne Prazauskas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(ALL Day – 8.15am – 2.00pm)</td>
<td>Peter McClean</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED 0414509547</td>
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If for any reason you are unable to do canteen on the day you have volunteered, please contact Adrienne on 0414 509547 asap so she can try and arrange a replacement.
You can tell a person’s generation by the questions their kids ask. Parents of the 1950’s thought long and hard over issues such as the age their kids left school and when to get them their first bike. Parents raising their kids in the 1990’s pondered the age at which kids should receive regular pocket-money and their children’s use of video games.

In the noughties issues surrounding communication technology keep many parents guessing. The age when kids start using Facebook and other social networking media is a burning issue for many parents of pre-teen and early teenage children.

Kids know more than their parents when it comes to the Internet and social media according to recent research. The Optus Family Communication survey reveals that over half (55 per cent) of Australian children outsmart their parents in technology knowledge before they are 13 years old. A further 30 per cent of parents admit they are behind their children by the time they are 15 years old.

Facebook, MSN and other forms of social networking media are here to stay, so my advice for parents is to learn about social media, even if you don’t want to embrace it. It can be confronting when your child knows more about technology than you, but smart parents these days let their kids teach them what they know about technology.

So if you have a pre-teen or a teenager you need to become familiar with Facebook and other technologies they are using. Ignorance is no excuse these days.

Facebook doesn’t permit kids under the age of 13 to access the site for reasons of personal safety. It doesn’t require proof of age to access the site, so it’s a guideline only. Facebook’s recommendations however, may be useful reference points if you are involved in negotiations with your child over using social networking sites.

More importantly, if young people are using Facebook and other networking sites, they need to fully understand the rules of safe use. Here are some tips:

1. Go through the set-up phase with your child, including establishing a personal profile. Check out the homepage of Facebook and other sites, and use their help sections to answer your questions.

2. Help your young person adjust the privacy settings so they suit their level of comfort. Review them often.

3. Reinforce with your child the importance of never sharing their password, not even with their best friend, a boyfriend or girlfriend.

4. Discuss other safety tips such as the types of information and pictures that should and shouldn’t be placed on their pages, as well as what to do if someone sends inappropriate information or initiates unsolicited communication.

5. Monitor your child’s use by making sure the computer they use at home is in a common area of the house.

6. It’s reasonable to expect that you should know your child’s password and log-in details so you can keep a check on their friends from time to time. This type of monitoring is age-related and may well not be suitable for older teens.

7. Consider getting your own Facebook page and use it as a way of communicating with your child. This has the added bonus of enabling you to keep one eye on what’s happening on your child’s Facebook.

Parents of past generations did their best to keep their kids safe as they negotiated a wider world. I recall teaching my kids stranger danger, drilling safety tips into them as they gained more independence.

As a parent you need to help kids navigate safely and securely in an online world, just as you do in an offline world. Know what kids are doing; spend time teaching them common sense, safety lessons and limit their use of technology so that they stay connected to you and others in your family.

Comment: www.twitter.com/michaelgrose

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www.parentingideas.com.au

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