

ST MONICA'S  
PRIMARY  
NORTH PARRAMATTA

TERM 1, WEEK 9  
Wednesday 25 March 2015

DIARY DATES

Week 9	
Wed 25	9:15am Stg 2 Parish Mass
Thurs 26	9:15am ES1 Parish Mass
Fri 27	Seasons of Growth note due to Mrs Mason
Week 10	<b>HOLY WEEK</b>
Mon 30	8:50am Easter Liturgy Pow Wow 9-10:30am
Tues 31	8:50am Easter Liturgy  Uniform Shop— 8:30am -9:30am

APRIL

Wed 1	8:50am Easter Liturgy
Thur 2	8:50am Easter Liturgy  School closes for Term 1 at 3:00pm
Fri 3	<b>GOOD FRIDAY</b>
Sun 5	<b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Week 1	
Mon 20	School resumes for Term 2
Tues 21	Uniform Shop 8:30-9:30am  School Athletics Carnival, Barton Park, North Parramatta
Wed 22	Stage 3 Excursion
Sat 25	Anzac Day



# Monica's Matters

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

Phone: 9630 3697  
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Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

This Sunday is Passion Sunday or Palm Sunday, as it is also called, and it marks the beginning of Holy Week. On Palm Sunday we process with palms because we have been baptised into the death and rising of Jesus and now commit ourselves to follow Him on this journey. The procession of palms and the acclamations of Alleluia remind us that Jesus' passion is a meaningful and significant event for us.

Next Thursday, Holy Thursday, we enter into our celebration of the Easter Triduum (three days) – the most significant holy days in our Christian year. At the last Supper we are in the presence of our servant leader washing the feet of his disciples. In our troubled world today we are in great need of this servant model of leadership. Each of us is challenged to reach out and stand up for those on the margins of family, Church and society. 'May there be peace on Earth and let in begin with me'.

Christianity seems to be an uncomfortable religion with the cross at its centre. On Good Friday we are confronted with Jesus' suffering and death. This day, this holy day, is about us as we identify with the different characters in the Passion Story, their confusion and frailty, their powerlessness, treachery and fear. In a much deeper sense this day is not about us. It is Jesus who must be the focus if this is to be a Good Friday.

I invite you to decide on something that you could do during Holy Week to spread the peace of Easter. It may be letting go of a grudge that you have been holding onto, setting aside time to just 'be' with each other in your family or to stand up and say something when there is an unkind remark being made about someone.

At school the students and staff have been preparing to retell the events of Holy Week from Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem, His Last Supper to His suffering on the Cross.

**Easter Liturgies to be held at 8:50am**

Monday 30 March —Palm Sunday  
Tuesday 31 March—Jesus at the Temple  
Wednesday 1 April— The Last Supper  
Thursday 2 April—The Crucifixion

Thank you to our wonderful staff for the great job that they do every day. Their commitment to education, teaching and learning and to the children and families in the school is a large part of what makes St Monica's a special place. Thank you to the parents who continue to support the school through POSMS, FOSMS Social/Welcome, assisting teachers in the classroom, sporting events and theme lunches. Try and have a restful and safe two-week break, return fresh and ready for another exciting term.

May your family be renewed by the hope, peace and joy of our Risen Lord.

Yours sincerely,

**Louise O'Donnell**  
Principal

## 2016 KINDERGARTEN ENROLMENTS

St Monica's Primary School is now accepting enrolments for Kindergarten (Early Stage One). Enrolment Application forms may be downloaded from the school website [www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stmonicasparra.catholic.edu.au) then go to the **PARENTS** heading, then click on **ENROLMENTS**. Alternatively you may collect an enrolment form from the school office.

When lodging your application you will need to provide your child's **original birth and baptismal certificates and an up-to-date immunisation form.**

Enrolment interviews will take place during Term 2 (May and June).

The **closing date** for Kindergarten 2016 enrolments is **Friday 24 April 2015.**

### 'KISS AND DROP'

Our 'Kiss and Drop' remains a cause of concern for a variety of reasons especially when it comes to student safety.



*Please observe the safety procedures in place:*

- Cars must enter the school grounds via Daking Street only.
- Students must always exit the car **via the driver's side only.**
- Farewell parents before getting out of the car.
- **Parents are not to get out of the car** to get bags out of the boot or to farewell children. Bags should be with the children ready to exit the car.
- Children walk into the school grounds via the gate.
- Parents are always welcome to park their car and walk their child/children into the school grounds if they are not able to comply with the safety requests in the 'Kiss and Drop' zone.

I have also received complaints from parents over the last two weeks regarding people not parking within the parking bays. Parents have reported that they have been forced to wait for the driver to return to the car so that they can get into their driver's seat. **Louise O'Donnell**

### RAFFLE TICKETS

Families who have given consent to receiving raffle tickets will be sent home a book of 50 raffle tickets early next week. The raffle tickets are for our Fete that will be held on Saturday 24 October this year. Tickets are \$1:00 each.

### CROSS COUNTRY THANK YOU

Thank you to our parent helpers who assisted at the Cross Country held at Lake Parramatta on Thursday 19 March: **John and Simone Lewis, Tiff Cooper, Neil Joseph, Gulshan Muttoo and Joelle Day.**

### 2015 NSW STATE ELECTION DID YOU KNOW?

Local Council infrastructure charges are placing an unfair burden on Catholic schools, incurring substantial additional costs. Over the past three years, the Sydney-based dioceses paid \$18.5 million in levies and bonds—almost cancelling out the entire capital funding provided by the NSW Government for all Catholic schools. In the Parramatta Diocese, developments at Westmead incurred an additional \$464,000 in local council infrastructure charges. This is money that could have been invested in the schools themselves, to benefit students—the cost of five teachers.

### FOUND

A small silver/black key at the Trivia Night. Please enquire at the school office.

### TRIVIA NIGHT—THANK YOU

Thank you to our wonderful parents who organised our recent trivia night. Many hours were spent planning the night, seeking sponsorship and setting up the Hall. We really appreciate the time and effort that went into making this such a fantastic school event. Thank you to all the parents who came along and supported the evening. Special thanks to Tiff Cooper, Katherine Sciacca, Simone Lewis, Genevieve Smith, Cathryn Crowle, Vanessa Talty, Claudia and Sam Kassis. *Louise O'Donnell*



I would like to point out and formally say what an honour it was to work for the last 5 or so months alongside such a wonderful group of mums. Thank you to all who gave up so much of their time, energy and resources to make the Trivia Night the raging success that it was. The profit made from the night was \$6160.75. Well done everyone. *Tiff Cooper*

### CHURCH CLEANING—THANK YOU

Thank you to Neil Joseph as he was the only person to clean the church on Friday 20 March. Each year the school is placed on the Church cleaning roster. Volunteers are invited to assist on the days listed below. The group generally meets at 2pm at the Church and are always finished well before school dismissal. Please contact the school if this is an area that you would be able to assist with.

The school's roster for church cleaning this year is below:

*Friday 29 May, Friday 24 July, Friday 14 August and Friday 23 October.*

### SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Congratulations to Kyah, Abbi, Chanel, Matilda-Rose, Madeline and Chelsea who participated in the Swimming Championships which were held at Homebush last Friday 20 March.

These students represented St Monica's at an outstanding level of competition and we are very proud of their achievements. Please look at our website for further details.

*Mrs Erin Turner*, Sports Co-ordinator

### SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL - 'Working With Children Check' for volunteers

The School Athletics Carnival will be held on **Tuesday 21 April 2015 (Term 2, Week 1)** at Barton Park, (Gladstone Street, North Parramatta).

Parent helpers/volunteers are reminded that you must apply for your 'Working With Children Check' as well as completing the Online Training Module prior to volunteering at school events.

Instructions for applying for the 'Working With Children Check' and the Online Training Module are on Page 5 of this newsletter. A direct link to both the WWC Check and the Online module are also available on the school website.

### BOOK COVERING

We now have some books which need covering both for our Library and our Reading Groups.

Anyone who would like to help, please collect a bag of books from the foyer in the office marked "**Books to Cover**". Each bag contains about 6 books with the plastic or contact you will need for the job! Please collect a bag and return them when the books are covered. Perhaps you could take a bag home for the holidays! Thank you for your time and care.

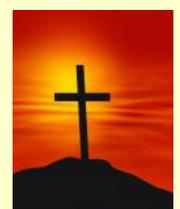
*Mrs Sharon Boulous*, Teacher/Librarian

### *Easter Liturgies during Holy Week*

Easter Liturgies will be held during Week 10.

Parents are invited to attend these short reflections on the events of Holy Week.

Monday 30 March	8:50am	Palm Sunday
Tuesday 31 March	8:50am	Jesus at the Temple
Wednesday 1 April	8:50am	The Last Supper
Thursday 2 April	8:50am	The Crucifixion



## MERIT AWARDS

*Congratulations to the following students who have received Merit Awards this term.*



ES1:	Matthew Johnson and Sophie Phan
Stage One:	Aaliyah Assaf and Samyra Singh
Stage 2:	Maan Upadhyay, Chelsea Lewis, Christian Dib, Jessica Crowle, Alexis Chang, Massimo Milutinovic, Christian Kandalajt, Czyan Panopio and Isabel Menjivar
Stage 3:	Patrick Crowle, Mohan Govender and Damian Matijevic

### Reading Strategies—Parramatta Library

Parramatta Library is presenting Reading Strategies for Parents of children in K-4. Go back to basics with presenter and literacy expert Kylie Mullins from ABCread and learn the importance of early intervention in helping your child become a good reader, find out which skills and strategies your child needs to help them achieve success.

<b>When:</b>	Tuesday 7 April 2015
<b>Location:</b>	Parramatta Library
<b>Time:</b>	6-7:30pm (including Q&A)
<b>Ages:</b>	Parents
<b>Cost:</b>	FREE
<b>Bookings:</b>	Online

[http://www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/play/whats\\_on/events\\_calendar/events\\_store/library\\_programs/reading\\_recovery\\_principles\\_for\\_parents\\_back\\_to\\_basics\\_for\\_k\\_to\\_4\\_at\\_parramatta\\_library](http://www.parracity.nsw.gov.au/play/whats_on/events_calendar/events_store/library_programs/reading_recovery_principles_for_parents_back_to_basics_for_k_to_4_at_parramatta_library)

### Write4Fun - closing date has been extended until Sunday 5 April 2015!

Write a poem or short story for your chance to win \$1,000 cash (\$500 for you & \$500 for your school)!

All it takes is a burst of inspiration, a dash of creativity and a little bit of effort for great poems and stories to appear! We can't wait to read yours! **Entry is FREE!**

Entries close Sunday 5 April 2015. To enter visit: <http://www.write4fun.net>

### MindQuest 2015

*Glenwood HS, Cnr Forman Ave and Glenwood Park Ave, Glenwood 2768*

*Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 May 2015 - 9:30am-3:30pm*

On Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 May 2015, the seventy-sixth *MindQuest* program will be held for gifted and talented primary students from Years 1-6 at Glenwood HS. These include gifted and talented students, gifted underachievers and students with well above average ability with a special interest. Students will have an opportunity to participate in over 36 exciting, fast paced courses in the two day program. They include courses in chemistry, earth sciences, drama, lego robotics, chemistry and much more. Most of these highly successful courses have been run in the past and students' evaluations suggest that they have been challenged and enriched by the experience. The cost of the weekend is \$185 (including GST).

Contact Mrs Mason for further details or call Shelagh 02 4232 2494 **Closing Date: Monday 4 May 2015.**

### Anti-Bullying Poster Competition

Thank you to all the children who entered the competition—Bullying: No Way

*Congratulations to the winners:*

ES1	Patrick, Noah, Max , Ryan and Jessica
Stage 1	Jayden
Stage 2	Year 3: Isabella S, Jessica S, Merna and Trinity Year 4: Rachel and Alexis
Stage 3	Joshua and Erica

## WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECKS AND ONLINE TRAINING MODULES

### WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK

**ALL** parent volunteers **MUST** now have a 'Working With Children Check'. This replaces the Prohibited Declaration Forms some parents have completed in the past. These forms are no longer valid. We ask that **ALL** volunteers complete a 'Working With Children Check' as soon as possible so that you can continue to be a volunteer in our school.

Please go to [www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au](http://www.kidsguardian.nsw.gov.au) and click on the blue square with the gold star "Start Here" and then follow the prompts. The link for the WWC Check is available on the front page of our website.

*The check is free for volunteers and is valid for 5 years.*

Parents will need to complete the online application—you will then receive an email with an application number which you will be required to print out and take to the RMS (Roads and Maritime Services) with your identification. Once your application has been processed you will then be sent another email providing you with a 'Working With Children Check' number. Please forward this email to the school email address ([stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stmonicasnparra@parra.catholic.edu.au)) where it will be recorded.

### ONLINE TRAINING MODULE — Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta

Please note that **ALL** volunteers are also required to complete the Online Training Module through the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta every two (2) years. The online training module can be accessed via <http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/training>

The link for this Online Training Module is also on the front page of our website.

### Kids in the Park—School Holiday Activities

### Sydney Olympic Park

Sydney's largest school holiday program returns this Easter school holidays!

There are 50+ fun-filled activities to keep kids active, outdoors and entertained. A range of activities are free or under \$20, making it affordable to discover Sydney's most exciting playground this holidays.

- Archery – Kids on Target & Little Archers
- All Day Holiday Recreational Program
- Science, cooking, writing workshops
- Cheerleading & gymnastics
- Circus Skills & Flying Trapeze
- ARTEXPRESS at the Armory workshops - FREE
- Park Patrol - Spider Secrets
- Sport & adventure camps
- Space Racing for Kids ....and lots more

Full details at [www.kidsinthepark.com.au](http://www.kidsinthepark.com.au)

## BUNNINGS WAREHOUSE - NORTH PARRAMATTA

### JOIN OUR EASTER FAMILY NIGHT

FREE

Thursday 26th March 2015

6:00pm — 8:00 pm

Enjoy Free DIY Workshops, an Easter Egg hunt, a visit from the Easter Bunny and lots more!

Bring along the whole family for a great night of Easter activities for everyone.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE PROVIDED.

## SEASONS FOR GROWTH 2015

The Seasons for Growth school program is based on the belief that grief is normal and can be a valuable part of life and that children need to be provided with the opportunity to examine how grief, as a result of death, separation or divorce has impacted on their lives.

The program is based on research, which highlights the importance of social support in dealing with grief.

### Seasons for Growth

- Assists students in understanding that the emotions associated with their losses are normal.
- Encourages the expressions of thoughts and emotions.
- Helps restores self- confidence and self-esteem.
- Develops a peer support network.

The program caters for different age levels where groups are limited to 4-6 children. The children are withdrawn from class once a week for 40 minutes. Each session is facilitated by the same Companion, and children participate in eight formal sessions, one celebration session and two 'reconnector' sessions.

The trained Companions at St Monica's this year are Mrs Sharon Boulous and Mrs Mary-Jo Mason.

The children must have parental permission to attend the program.

At this stage we are looking for expressions of interest from parents who believe such a program would benefit their child/children.

**Please fill in the form below and return to school by Friday 27 March 2015.**

If you have any queries about the program please feel free to contact me.

***Mary-Jo Mason***

Assistant Principal

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## SEASONS FOR GROWTH—2015

*( Please return to Mrs Mason by Friday 27 March 2015)*

I \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent) am interested in my  
(PRINT NAME)

child \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_  
(PRINT NAME) (HOMEROOM)

attending the *Seasons For Growth Program* this year.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## EASTER CELEBRATIONS

### CHRISM MASS

**St Patrick's Cathedral**

Wednesday 1st April— 7.30pm

### MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

**St Monica's Parish**

Thursday, 2nd April—7.30pm

### GOOD FRIDAY

**St Monica's Parish**

3rd April— **Stations of the Cross**—10am

**Chinese Stations of the Cross**— 1.30pm

**Passion of the Lord**—3pm

Reconciliation will follow the 3pm Liturgy

### RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

**Easter Vigil**

**St Monica's Parish**

Saturday, 4th April—6.30pm

Chinese Mass —9.00pm

### EASTER SUNDAY

**St Monica's Parish**

5th April—9am

Chinese Mass—11.30am

**No evening Mass**

#### **POST SEPARATION RECOVERY PROGRAM- SPRINGWOOD**

CCSS Solo Parent Services is offering its seven week Post Separation Recovery Program for the first time at Springwood, commencing on **Wed 6<sup>th</sup> May**. **Time:** 7.30pm – 9.45pm. **Venue:** Presbyterian Church Hall, 150 Macquarie Rd, Springwood. **Registration essential.** For further details contact Eileen or Rita on 9933 0205 or email [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

#### **MARRIAGE ANNULMENT INFORMATION NIGHT**

Each year CCSS Solo Parent Services present an Information Session to help people understand the process of Marriage Annulments in the Catholic Church. The evening is open to anyone who is interested. **Venue:** Mamre House, 181 Mamre Rd Orchard Hills **Date:** Tues 5<sup>th</sup> May **Time:** 7.30pm – 9.30pm. **Cost:** \$5.00. **Registration:** Rita or Eileen. PH: 9933 0205 or Email: [soloparentservices@ccss.org.au](mailto:soloparentservices@ccss.org.au)

#### ***Chrism Mass on 1 April***

Everyone is invited to celebrate the Chrism Mass with Parramatta's Bishop Emeritus Kevin Manning, priests, deacons and the faithful when the Oil of the Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick will be blessed and the Oil of Chrism consecrated. During the Mass, priests will renew their commitment to priestly service.

**Date:** Wednesday 1 April at 7.30pm in St Patrick's Cathedral, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta.

#### ***Volunteers needed for Chisholm Cottage, Westmead***

Chisholm Cottage provides 'a home away from home' for country families attending hospitals and clinics in Westmead. This low-cost, short-term accommodation is managed by Sisters of Charity Outreach and owned by the Catholic Women's League (Aust), Diocese of Parramatta Inc. The Cottage needs volunteers who assist with house duties, answer the phone and provide a welcoming presence to residents.

For more information, please contact Maria McNuff, Volunteer Coordinator & Educator, tel 02 8382 6437, 0404 861 523, [mmcnuff@stvincents.com.au](mailto:mmcnuff@stvincents.com.au)