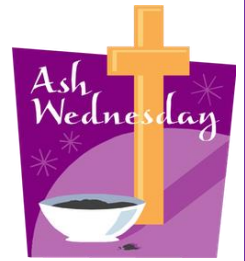




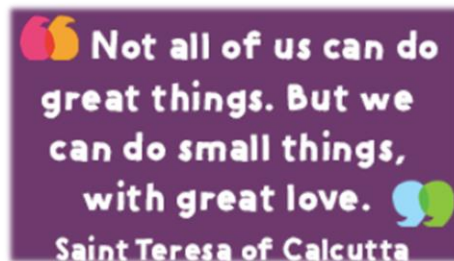
Religious Education News



Today the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, which also marks the beginning of the annual Caritas Australia Project Compassion Appeal. Donations to Project Compassion allow Caritas Australia, the Catholic Agency for International Aid and Development, to work with local communities around the world to alleviate poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice. Yesterday the School Captains Ava Cowie and Jacob Lipscombe attended the Diocesan Launch of Project Compassion with Sr Niesha and Mrs Cornett. We will hear about their experience in the next newsletter.

We encourage you to put your compassion into action this Lent through your prayer, fasting and almsgiving by supporting Project Compassion. Each classroom will be supplied with a mission box for students to place their contributions. lent.caritas.org.au

Let's Go Further, Together!



Ash Wednesday

Thank you to all the parents, grandparents and parishioners who joined us today for Ash Wednesday Mass. We also thank the 12 St Patricks girls who came to assist the K-2 classes with their Ash Wednesday Liturgies. Paris Houghton, Jessica Roet, Tara Baudana, Janaya Barnes, Breanna Madden, Ruby Demasi, Ruby Barahona, Sophie Sinclair, Alysha Bonney, Ellie Fryer, Imogen Mabin, Nureka Thotawatta, Jessica Ryan, Stephanie Morris.

What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the church season of Lent. Lent is the period of 40 days (not counting the Sundays) of fasting, repentance and prayer prior to the celebration of Easter. On Ash Wednesday we attend Mass and during this the priest marks the sign of the cross on our foreheads using ashes. The ashes represent mourning and repentance. The ashes are gathered from the burning of the palms from the previous year's Palm Sunday. This year Bishop Brian has taken some ashes from our bushfire ravaged South Coast which were added to our ashes from Palm Sunday. Using these ashes from the fires helps us keep all those affected close to our hearts this Lenten season.

LENT

Pray + Fast + Give

During Lent we are asked to focus on three things – prayer, fasting and almsgiving. What are you going to do this Lent to prepare for the Easter Season? Have a discussion with your children about Lent and how you can as a family make a commitment to Lent.



In the next few weeks we will be celebrating and acknowledging the valuable work of the RFS. We will be having a Splash of Red Day where they students will be able to wear a red t-shirt, red socks or red hair trim. We will be asking for donations on this day to forward to the RFS. These donations will go into a new trust fund the RFS has setup where we can see what the money will be used for. This is a great way for us as Catholic people to celebrate and thank the RFS for their tireless efforts both in our local and wider communities across the state. Stay tuned for the date and for some surprises this day may hold.



Catholic Schools Week

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated in the Diocese of Wollongong from Monday 2nd March to Friday 6th March. Catholic Schools Week aims to raise awareness and celebrate the strengths and distinctiveness of Catholic schools. It provides an opportunity for schools to celebrate their Catholic identity, the fundamental role they play within their local community and the many positive learning experiences that take place each and every day.

Open classroom invitation- The Art of Storytelling in Religious Education

As part of our Catholic Schools Week celebration, we are holding open classrooms on Friday 6th of March from 12:00pm across the school and everyone is most welcome. We will be showcasing one of our most important teaching practices- Storytelling in Religious Education. The key elements of storytelling are: Telling the Story, Wondering, Exploring and Prayer. These key elements assist students to engage with the story and allows teachers to help children bring together faith and life experience.

The following 'Storytelling' experiences will be taking place across our school:

KB	Lent and Holy Week	KG	The Good Shepherd
1B	Jesus and the Children	1G	Moses and the Burning Bush
2B	Zacchaeus	2G	The Parable of the Sower
3B	The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus	3G	The Healing of Blind Bartimaeus
4B	The Exodus	4G	The Exodus
5B	The Good Shepherd	5G	Mary and Martha
6B	The Good Samaritan	6G	The Good Samaritan

Important Dates

Friday 28 th February	Year 5 Grade Liturgy 8.35am School Hall - All welcome
Friday 6 th March	Year 3 Grade Liturgy 8.35am School Hall - All welcome
Friday 13 th March	Year 2 Grade Liturgy 8.35am School Hall - All welcome
Saturday 14 th March	Parish Family Mass 6pm Parish Church
Friday 20 th March	Year 1 Grade Liturgy 8.35am School Hall - All welcome
Friday 27 th March	Year 4 and Kindergarten Grade Liturgy 8.35am School Hall - All welcome
Monday 30 th March	Sacrament of Reconciliation 7pm Parish Church
Tuesday 31 st March	Sacrament of Reconciliation 7pm Parish Church
Wednesday 1 st April	Sacrament of Reconciliation 7pm Parish Church

Reconciliation Lessons

Week 1: Sunday: 1st March, Monday 2nd March and Wednesday 4th March;
 Week 2: Sunday: 8^h March, Monday 9th March and Wednesday 11th March;
 Week 3: Sunday: 15^h March, Monday 16th March and Wednesday 18th March;
 Week 4: Sunday: 22nd March, Monday 23rd March and Wednesday 25th March.

Classes are at 2.30pm on Sundays, 7.00pm on Mondays and Wednesdays.