Dear St Mary’s Catholic School Community,

A number of years ago my wife and I were blessed to travel throughout the Holy Land for six weeks. It was both a privilege and amazing spiritual journey visiting the sites of the Last Supper, the Crucifixion, Jesus’ tomb, the Sea of Galilee, the Annunciation, Bethlehem, Cana, the Sermon on the Mount and Jesus’ Ascension.

The sense of awe and wonder was obvious walking along the Via Dolorosa (the Way of the Cross) and entering the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The Church of the Holy Sepulchre was built at a later date over the sites of Jesus’ Crucifixion and burial. We had to stoop low to enter Jesus’ tomb. It was only big enough for about three people at a time. After we entered the tomb, I vividly remember an Italian priest asking me to put my hand on the end of the slab of stone. He said that it was there that Jesus’ head laid.

I pray that Christ’s blessings become abundantly clear to you during the Easter season.

Following are liturgy times where you are most welcome to join our parish during Holy Week:

- **Holy Thursday:** 7.00pm
- **Good Friday:** 9.00am Stations of the Cross; 3.00pm Passion of Our Lord
- **Easter Vigil:** 6.00pm
- **Easter Sunday:** 7.30am and 9.00am

A special invitation is extended to all St Mary’s families to join the parish for the 9.00am Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. Our Parent Liturgy Team is helping to lead this meaningful liturgy.

**Congratulations**

We congratulate Beckett (2 Blue) and Baxter (K Blue) B. The boys were baptised Catholic last Sunday in our Church. Both boys felt very special. Deservedly so!

**Whooping Cough**

Our school has not been immune to the local community’s outbreak of whooping cough. Please keep an eye on your young ones.

**Enrolling for Kinder 2016**

We are currently enrolling for Kinder 2016. If you have not yet collected an enrolment package, they are available at our office.

**ANZAC Day Liturgy**

You are most welcome to join us for our special Anzac Day Liturgy at 10.00am on Friday 24th April in our courtyard area. Club Toukley have kindly laid a 100th year commemorative plaque beneath our flag poles and representatives of the RSL will join us for the liturgy.

**Mrs Walker’s Leave**

We wish Mrs Walker well as she takes some leave to travel to Gallipoli for the 100th year celebrations of Anzac Day. It promises to be an amazing experience. We welcome Mrs Murphy who will teach 6 Green in Mrs Walker’s absence during Weeks 1, 2 and 3 of the new term.

**Our Holy Week Liturgy**

We congratulate Year 5 for their wonderful leadership in so prayerfully and reverently leading our Holy Week Liturgy yesterday. The presence of all children in our Church was inspiring.

**Farewell Father Peter**

At the conclusion of our liturgy yesterday we interviewed Father Peter. Father Peter openly shared his thoughts and was genuinely moved by both our Year 6 students and Mrs Sellars’ kind words.

Kind Regards,

Kevin Williams
Principal
From Our REC

Farewell, Fr Peter
Yesterday our school community farewelled Fr Peter and thanked him for his service and ministry, to our parish and our school. The children asked him some questions and some of our Year 6 leaders spoke to Fr Peter about the impact he has had on their lives. During the school holidays, Fr Peter will leave our parish and Fr Stephen will be joining us. A parish mass farewelling Fr Peter is on Sunday 26th April, 9.00am.

Holy Week
Yesterday, our school community reflected on the events of Holy Week at our 9.15am Holy Week Liturgy. Thank you to the parents who were able to join us for this occasion. Year 5, you were absolutely fantastic - your reverence and leadership as you took us through the events of Holy Week was noticed by many. Great job! A big thank you to Mrs Doyle, Mrs Kyle and Ms Baker for their efforts in preparing this liturgy.

Stations of the Cross
This Friday, Good Friday, we have a number of students from Kinder to Year 6 attending the parish Stations of the Cross. You are very welcome to come along and join us. It begins at 9.00am and goes for around 30-40 minutes. All children involved are asked to please arrive no later than 8.45am. A big thank you to the parent helpers - it wouldn’t be possible without you!

Cluster Mass
Last Thursday our Year 6 students attended the annual Cluster Mass with all other Year 6 students on the Central Coast, within the Broken Bay Diocese. Year 6 were outstanding leaders and role models. Well done. Thank you to the Year 6 teachers for their preparation for the Mass.

First Eucharist reminder
Families of any Year 4, 5 or 6 children who will be making the Sacrament of First Eucharist next term are reminded of the change of dates of the Sacrament and practice. These have been previously advertised in the newsletter. The Sacrament will now be held on 14/6/15 (previously 7/6/15) and the practice will be held at 4pm, 9/6/15 (previously 2/6/15). A note will go home during Week 1 next term with all of the times and dates.

I hope that you all are able to take time this Easter Season to stop and reflect on the meaning of Easter and the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Enjoy time with family and friends and I look forward to seeing everyone back here for Term 2!

From Our Family Liaison Officer

In Week 7 a flyer was sent home to every family regarding a new Seasons for Growth Parent Programme that will be running early in Term 2.

This program focuses on the impact of family breakdown from the child’s perspective and gives parents/carer ideas and strategies to help children cope with the changing family dynamic.

While parents/carer will need time to come to terms with the new family circumstances themselves, children still need all the love and support of their parents to help them cope. It can be difficult to feel sure about the approach we take with children at this time. Sometimes you may be asking yourself “How much should I tell the kids?” , “How much do they understand?” or “What can I do to make things easier for them?”. Please be assured that you’re not alone in this respect and the program can offer practical help.

Please pop in to the office to pick up a flyer or look on our school website for more information.

Donna Falzon
Family Liaison Officer
KidsMatter

This week we have provided a link to the March KidsMatter e-Newsletter.

There are some great topics in the current issue, including
- Helping parents nurture children’s mental health and wellbeing
- Caring for your kids means caring for yourself
- Your little ones are your greatest teachers when it comes to mindfulness.
- Addressing racism

From this link you can also access previous newsletters and even sign up to receive a copy direct to your inbox each month.

From Our Librarian

Is it that time already?
Wow just one sleep to go and we are at the end of Term 1! Where has this first term gone? How can you keep the reading and writing bug alive during the holiday break?
Reading happens all the time. Sometimes we don’t stop and think about how much reading we do.
• Visit your local library
• Visit a museum and read the caption of the exhibits
• Take a train trip to the city and read the train timetable
• Start reading a chapter book with your child. Read a chapter each day or night

From Our Office

Please remember to notify the school office before 9.00am on 4396 5100 if your child/ren will not be attending school due to sickness.

We would like to take this opportunity in wishing our beautiful families a lovely Easter and to enjoy the break of the daily school routine. We definitely will!

Lyn & Jacqui

KidsMatter is a great resource available to anyone involved in supporting children – parents, carers, grandparents, teachers, health professionals, etc – and is an accessible, easy to understand source of information. It contains the latest research on children’s mental health and wellbeing, as well as insightful, practical tips for all adults caring for children.

Holy Week Liturgy

Something We’ve Noticed
At our Kinder 2016 evening on Monday some current parents kindly offered their thoughts about our school to the new incoming families. We certainly appreciated your positive, encouraging words. Your words, undoubtedly, touched the Leadership Team members present. Thank you

Star Awards
Charlie T
Toby S
Mia J
Sienna S
Kiarra L
Jack M
Sarah L
Navaya A
Joshua H
Koby Sw
Suzie B
Cooper M
Keegan F
Shauna R
Jack M
Keira G
Natalie R
Tahlia P
Cohan L
Mia D
Jessica W
Declan C
Tanishka K

Piano Tuition
There are vacancies available for next term. Please contact Chris Hochkins for further details. Ph. 0414 186 044

Zac W - Holy Week Liturgy
NSW All Schools Swimming
Congratulations to our champion swimmers Josh H and Joey F, both competed against the best in NSW Primary Schools. Both boys swam in the 50m Freestyle and are in the fastest 20 children in their age group in NSW.
St Mary's is proud of you both!!!!!

Cross Country
CCC Cross Country is on Friday 1st May at Adcock Park
Please return all permission notes by tomorrow!
Great Effort by all the keen kids running the oval at lunchtimes!

Liz Bain
Sports Coordinator

English Parent Education
Next term’s Parent Education session is on Tuesday 2nd June. Practical ideas for how to help your child is a focus. The repeated sessions are at 9.15am and 6.30pm. Free child minding is available.

Seasons for Growth
Seasons for Growth Parent Program begins in Week 2 of next term. It is designed to help parents understand how divorce/separation effects children and what they can do to support them.

On Our Website
• Optional Homework Suggestions
• Canteen Roster
• School Newsletter
• Permission Notes
• Term Calendars
• Medication Policy
• Sporting Dates
• News and Events
• School Holiday Activities from NSW Sport & Recreation

From Our PE Teacher