



# Good Shepherd Primary School Newsletter

Term 4

Week 8

Tuesday, 28th November, 2017

First Sunday of Advent



#### Dates for your Diary:

For further Upcoming Events..... Please see inside for more details of other events!

**Term 4 concludes:**  
Friday, 15th December

**Term 1 2018 commences:**  
Tuesday, 30th January  
for students in Year 1  
through to Year 6

Wednesday, 31st January  
for New Kinder students

Thursday, 1st February  
for Kinder siblings.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Next Sunday is the First Sunday of Advent. Our spiritual direction in Advent should be to take notice of our tendency to be distracted from the purpose of God's coming namely, to bring hope to all people especially those who do not share the good things of life.

When John the Baptist was preparing his followers for the coming of Christ, he said, *"In your midst there is one whom you do not know."* Luke 3:16. Bono, the lead singer of U2, puts meaning to these words for us in an address he gave: *"God is in the slums, in the cardboard boxes where the poor play house. God is in the silence of a mother, who has infected her child with a virus that will end both their lives. God is in the cries heard under the rubble of war. God is in the debris of wasted opportunity and lives, and God is with us, if we are with them."*

So, when Advent looms up in our lives, we can ignore it and divert our attention to the commercial distractions or we can regard it as an invitation to reflect on what we truly need and long for in life. Advent invites us into a reorientation of life that means knowing God in a new way.

The Season of Advent is known as a time of waiting and preparation. But, if we reflect on it, life itself is a "waiting room". So, what "preparations" are we up to as we wait?

A final thought from the theologian, poet and Benedictine Monk, Sebastian Moore, *"Christ is present to us in so far as we are present to one another"*.

***"Lord, lead me to see, through Your love, the changes I need to make in my life. Break into my life and help me to move forward, perhaps along untravelled paths to new aspects of my life that help me to mirror You to others. Amen."***

Peace and Best Wishes.

*Patricia Carr*

Tricia Carr



## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, 29th November:	School Disco
Wednesday, 29th November & Thursday, 30th November:	Year 1 to Loretto
Thursday, 30th November:	Year 2 Assembly (2.15 pm Good Shepherd School)
Thursday, 30th November:	Year 6 Assembly (2.00 pm Good Shepherd School)
Friday, 1st December:	Mufti Day for all students (Year 6 fundraiser) Please bring in a gold coin.
Friday, 1st December:	Year 3 Assembly (2.00 pm Good Shepherd School)
Monday, 4th December:	Infants End of Term Awards (8.30 am Assembly)
Thursday, 7th December:	Kindergarten Christmas Tee-Shirt Day
Friday, 8th December:	Swimming Carnival
<b>Monday, 11th December:</b>	<b>Year 6 Graduation Mass</b> (6.00pm Good Shepherd Church)
<b>Thursday, 14th December:</b>	<b>End of Year Whole School Mass</b> (9.00 am Good Shepherd Church). Following Mass, the Parent Helper Morning Tea will be held at Good Shepherd School).
Friday, 15th December	Last day of school for students



## Peace & Joy Awards

The Good Shepherd School Community would like to congratulate the following students for their hard work and dedication throughout the past week.

These awards are presented for cooperation, respectfulness, responsibility, care, compassion,

fair go and integrity.

KB	Thomas Sanak	KG	Saanvi Suresh
KR	Czarina Caalim	KW	Magda Ghilagaber
1B	Jaden Taranto	1G	Yvette Pineda
1R	Maheen Sehgal	1W	Dominic Assey
2B	Kyeesha Narayan	2G	Chloe Vere
2R	Jacob Gigante	2W	Isabella Gutierrez
3B	Jordan Lumbré	3G	Sean Scanlan
3R	Louise Reyes	3W	Gabrielle Capule
4B	Marsha Szulgit	4G	Gemma Soans
4R	Prayer Fotualii	4W	Martin Stanton
5B	Benedict Cabrera	5G	Jonathan Tawk
5R	Keisha Nuval	5W	Losaline Fihaki
6B	Ella Cutajar	6G	Jashan Singh
6R	Jamie Ocampo	6W	Caryn Tan

## Religious Education News

### First Sunday of Advent



The season of Advent, which begins next Sunday, is the time when we focus our attention on Jesus' coming at Christmas. Advent looks back on the first coming of Jesus Christ, when the Word of God became flesh and shared our human

story. It points to our present life when Jesus comes to give meaning to what we do as we meet Him in the Word, in the Sacraments and through His Spirit. Advent then joins the past with the present. It is the presence of God that gives us life. Advent is a time of preparation, a time of waiting. So, what are we waiting for? Why do we keep watch? What we are waiting for is the gift of Jesus. So we wait patiently and perseveringly for His coming!



## Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following students who will celebrate their

birthday this week: Eric Maddar, Ty Smith, Sherene Zaballa, James Faafiu, Gianna Moeono-Paahi, Thalia Mazur, Taiuli-Rose Bennell, Precious Johnson, Roman Tuaimau, Felicity Baluyot, Hayden-Noah Mercado, Pipiena Setefano, Seann Burke and Christian Calleja.



## End of School Year Mass

Our End of School Year Mass will take place on **Thursday, 14th December** at 9.00 am in the Good Shepherd Church. All very welcome! Following Mass, we will be hosting a Parent Helper Morning Tea, in the School Staff Room.

## Term 1 2018

**Tuesday, 30th January:**

**Years 1—6 commence**

**Wednesday, 31st January:**

**New Kinders commence**

**Thursday, 1st February:**

**Sibling Kinders commence**



## Parent Group News School Summer Disco

The School Summer Disco will be held tomorrow Wednesday, 29th November in the Parish Hall. **Entry Fee is \$4.00 per child.** Sausage Sizzle, Drinks and

chips will be available for purchase on the night. Glow jewellery will be also available for purchase at \$4.00 each or 3 for \$10.00. Parents, please note the following times for your children to participate at the Disco:

**Infants (Kinder —Year 2): 4.30 pm—5.30 pm**

**Primary (Year 3—Year 6): 5.45 pm—7.00 pm**

We require Parent Helpers for the disco, so if you are able to assist and have completed an online Building Child Safe Communities Volunteers application Webpage <http://www.parra.catholic.edu.au> then click on "Child Protection Training Forms (halfway down page on the right hand side). Also, would you please leave your name at the office.



## Term 4 2017 & Term 1 2018 Dates

### Term 4:

Concludes: Friday, 15th December for students (Monday 18th December and Tuesday 19th December are designated Staff Development Days)

### Term 1 2018

Commences: Tuesday, 30th January—students in Year 1 through to Year 6 commence.

Wednesday, 31st January—New Kinder students commence.

Thursday, 1st February—Kinder siblings commence.

## Showcase of Talent

As you may know, we have a 'Showcase of Talent' at the end of the year. This is an opportunity for the children to share their talent and skills with their grade buddies. The 'best of' each grade will perform to a larger audience in Week 10. If your child would like to participate in a performance, they must complete their own individual nomination form which they will receive by the end of the week. If your child would like to participate, they are to prepare everything at home. Parents are invited to attend the finalists performance in Week 10 - Thursday, 14th December. Any questions, please ask. Thank you Mrs Cooke



## Good Shepherd School Bag

From 2018, all students (EXCEPT YEAR 6 2018) will be required to use the school's "Good Shepherd" school bag as pictured. The decision to have these bags as a standard part of our school uniform was made in 2015, voted in by the school Leadership Team as well as the Parent Group. If you are replacing your child's bag, please purchase the school bag. The bag is available from the uniform

shop or the school office. The cost is \$40.00 and payment is cash only. These bags are designed to evenly distribute weight and are made of extremely durable materials making them good value in the long run. Thank you.

## Staff Development Days—Term 4 2017

Each year Staff participate in professional development to support them in their roles as educators. The focus of these days is aligned to Good Shepherd School's goals. Staff will use information they have gathered about the children to design learning programs for the children that will best meet their needs. These Staff Development Days are **PUPIL FREE DAYS** and will take place on **Monday, 18th December and Tuesday 19th December, 2017 (Week 11)**. Our thanks to parents for organising care for their children on these days. COSHC will be able to offer limited spaces for care on these days. To make inquiries of COSHC, please telephone COSHC on Ph. 0409 121 980. Please note the last day of school for students will be Friday, 15th December, 2017.



Dear Parents & Carers, please note if someone else will be collecting your child early or during school hours, on your behalf, you need to inform the school in writing or by email to: (goodshepherd@parra.catholic.edu.au) **PRIOR TO PICKUP**. This policy is effective immediately. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



## Tell Them From Me

The surveys are an important part of our whole school evaluation and planning process.

We would like to invite you to complete the Tell Them From Me (TTFM) Partners in Learning survey. As we value the role of parents and carers within our school community we would greatly appreciate your feedback. The information you provide will be used to maintain our commitment to working together in partnership to further improve student learning and wellbeing at Good Shepherd School.

The survey is anonymous and will take approximately 20 minutes to complete. You are able to access the parent survey on your computer or mobile device by using the URL below:

<https://www.tellthemfromme.com/goodshepherd>



## COSHC Notice

Dear Parents & Carers, please note there will be **no child care available** on the last two days of Term 4 which are the Staff Development Days (Pupil Free days) Monday, 18th

December and Tuesday, 19th December. Students finish Term 4 on Friday, 15th December, 2017.



## Canteen News

Two Meal Deals to choose from at \$5.00 each (This deal is available until Friday, 8th December).

### Meal Deal 1

Ham & Cheese Toastie, Poptop Juice & Fruit Salad

### Meal Deal 2

Sweet Chiklli Wrap, Bottle of Water & Zooper Dooper

To view the full menu of Classroom Catering, please visit website: [www.classroomcatering.com.au](http://www.classroomcatering.com.au)



## Label Uniforms, Hats, Jackets, Lunchboxes & Drink Bottles

Please label your child's uniform especially their hats, lunch boxes and drink bottles as a lot are ending up in lost property! **There are an extraordinary number of jackets as well!!** Names can be written on with a laundry pen, embroidered, or you can use iron-on labels. All unlabelled uniforms are washed and re-sold in the uniform shop. By failing to label your child's property, you are spending money unnecessarily when you need to replace these items.

### Diocesan Gymnastics Wrapup

Last Thursday, students from our school competed in the Diocesan Gymnastics. They all did a fabulous job representing our school and had a lot of fun. Special congratulations to Isabella Craig who placed 6th in the vault and to Mitchell Holmes who placed 1st in static and vault, and 5th in the mini tramp. This placed Mitchell in 2nd place overall!! Students in the photo are: Peighton Laurente, Isabelle Craig, Yareli Montarde, Gennina Espino, Rosemary Shamoka, Marsha Szulgit, Zae Gabriel Orayenza, Mitchell Holmes and Parv Shah.



**Dear Parents of Year 6**  
**Year 6 would like to invite you to their assembly this Thursday, 30th November at 2.00 pm at Good Shepherd School. Hope to see you there!**

### Kindergarten 2018 Enrolments—only a couple of places left .....

Enrolment Application forms for Kindergarten 2018 are available from the School Office. Parents, if you already have a child at Good Shepherd, you will still need to submit an Enrolment Form for any **new siblings** for 2018.

### Year 6 Graduation Mass



Dear Parents & Carers, just a reminder that the Year 6 Graduation Mass will take place on **Monday, 11th December, 2017** at the Good Shepherd Church Plumpton **commencing at 6.00 pm**. Please mark this date in your diary. All very welcome!



### Child Safety—Protocol regarding discipline

Dear Parents & Carers—just a reminder regarding child safety, please do not approach children who are not yours. If you have a problem or concern, please speak to your child's class teacher or teacher on duty. Also please do not approach the parents of other students if you have an issue at school, rather let the school know and we will deal with any issues that may arise.

The following is an insert from the Department of Child Protection: "The NSW Child Protection legislation prohibits any adult from disciplining a child other than their own. This is particularly so when children are at school. Issues should always be brought to the attention of the class teacher, assistant principal or principal." Thank you.

### Applications for Leave

Dear Parents, just a reminder of the following: Leave of **4 days or less** should be requested by parents/carers in writing by email or a written note to the Principal. This letter of request should be addressed to the Principal prior to commencing the leave period indicating the specific reason or purpose for the request of leave.

If the leave is for **5 or more school days**, this will require a **formal application for leave by completing an Application for Extended Leave form**. **An interview is also required with the Principal prior to taking leave for 10 or more days.**

### Complaints/Grievances Forms

Parents, please note if you would like to make a complaint/grievance in regards to any school matter, you can pick up a form from the school office. All matters will be attended to under strict confidentiality.

### Back to School 2018

Parents, if you intend travelling overseas or interstate during the Christmas holidays and your child/children will be **returning to school after school resumes**, could you please notify the office in writing that this will be happening and note the date your child will be returning for the 2018 school year. (NB, please remember you require an interview with the Principal's for leave for 10 school days or more **prior to taking leave**. You will need to complete an Application for Leave form which can be picked up from the school office). **This must be completed, travel documentation attached to it, and returned to the school office prior to going on leave.** An interview will then be arranged with the Principal in order for leave to be approved.

### Social Skill of the Week

**"Chew with your mouth closed"**

### Road Safety Policy & Bicycle Safety Policy 2016

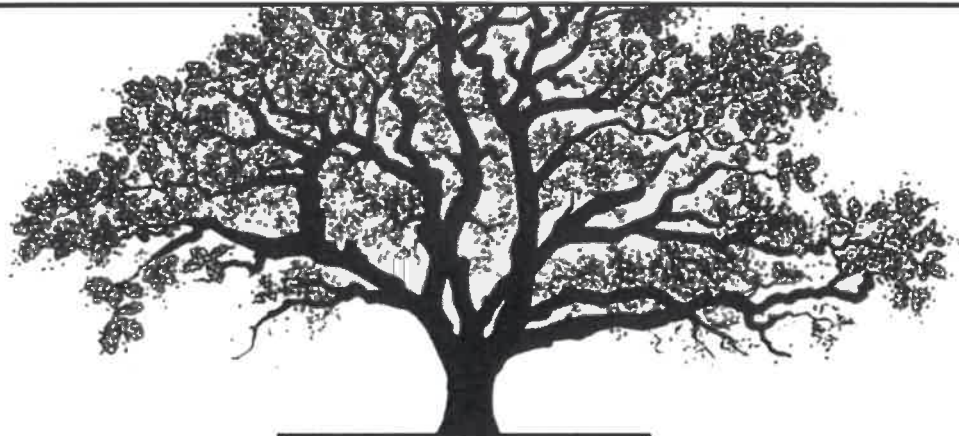
Please refer to our School Website "Our School — Policies & Procedures — Good Shepherd Primary Policies" — for our Road Safety Policy and our Bicycle Policy for 2016.

### Message from School Office

Dear Parents, please note the last day for all **"Cash and Cheque"** payments will be **Wednesday, 13th December**. Eftpos payments will be accepted until Friday, 15th December. Thank you.



# ROOT WORD OF THE WEEK



**act**

(LATIN)

**MEANING:**

**to do**

**EXAMPLES:**



**activity, react**



Studies that prove we need to read more...

(From Disrupting Thinking by Beers and Probst)

*Reasons to read more:*

	<p><b>Improves Writing</b></p> <p>Bazerman, 1980 • Goodman &amp; Goodman, 1983 • Langer &amp; Flihan, 2000 • Raphael, Kirschner, &amp; Englert, 1988</p>
	<p><b>Builds Background Knowledge</b></p> <p>Anderson, 1984 • Anderson, 1985 • McVee, Dunsmore, &amp; Gavelek, 2005 • Ozuru, Dempsey, &amp; McNamara, 2009 • Smagorinsky, 2001</p>



## Infants End of Term Awards

The following students from Kindergarten to Year 2 will receive Awards for Term 4 2017. These Awards will be presented at the Whole School Assembly at 8.30 am next Monday, 4th December (Week 9). Parents are warmly invited to attend.

Class	Religious Education	Learning Achievement	Learning Achievement	Consistent Effort
KB	Maddison Domingo	Samreet Nijjar	Isabella Sugpatan	Mikaella DeGuzman
KG	Isabelle Diamse	Isabella Adams	Leila Queras	Jesse Taylor
KR	Kevin Cole	Taiuli Rose Bennell	Lusia Laulu	Zhanian Galletes
KW	Sophia Romero	Carter Horne	Magda Ghilagaber	Jasmine Ismail
1B	Thomas Planer	Bronte-Rose Marks	Aarav Sharma	Taylor Nguyen
1G	Roza-Elloise Frias	Alivia Cobban	Rovin Ayala	Oliver Gutierrez
1R	Emily Porter	Sophia Rahme	Sandeep Nijjar	Fatima Kamara
1W	Dominic Assey	Byronn Clarke-Forrester	Anjani Patel	Bianca Galea
2B	Mary Bella Shamoka	Chris Baluyot	Cassandra Cruz	Kyeesha Narayan
2G	Hope MacMillanSavea	Carolina Barkho	Tevita Ma'asi	Not Published
2R	Shyla Soliman	Hasini Tirumalasetti	Dominic Sultana	Ava Stone
2W	Acuoth Acuoth	Raphael Santos	Benji Reyes	Kaelyn Aquino

## Reconciliation and Christmas Mass Times at Good Shepherd Church, Plumpton

### 2nd Rite Reconciliation for Christmas

Wednesday, 13th December at 7:30 pm

### Christmas Eve—24th December

6.00 pm Children's Mass and 8.00 pm Youth Mass

Midnight Mass at Midnight

### Christmas Day—25th December

7.00 am, 9.00 am and 12.00 noon

(12.00 noon in Vietnamese)

**There will be NO 6.00 pm Christmas Day Mass**





## top of the class with greg whitby



@gregwhitby

It seems that the days of renting a suit, borrowing the family car and heading off to the school hall or local club for the Year 12 school formal are well and truly over.

In some instances, the Year 12 school formal has become a major expense with students (and parents) forking out hundreds of dollars for a one-night-only event.

The Year 12 formal has always been an important event in the school calendar. It marks the transition from formal schooling to the next chapter of study or work, and from teenage years to early adulthood. When I was at school, the formal was the reward for crossing the finish line in Year 12. Nowadays, there are graduation

ceremonies for pre-schoolers and "formals" at the end of Year 6. Aside from the costs involved, parents can really feel the pressure to ensure that the experience is a memorable one for their son or daughter.

Something else that makes the current Year 12 formal experience different from previous years is the role

played by social media in sharing pictures and information about every aspect of the event. Many young people feel the pressure to look their best online. Sadly, it can all get a bit competitive.

No-one wants to spoil the delights of growing up or the rewards of finishing the long journey of formal schooling but sometimes I do think that it all becomes a bit extravagant, with the importance of the night easily lost.

Rites of passage are important for us all. We all should have the opportunity to acknowledge and celebrate the big milestones in

our lives, and finishing school is a big milestone for young people. At the same time it is important that we keep things in perspective and not make the event a fashion showcase.

If your son or daughter is about to have his or her formal celebrations, perhaps you could remind him or her that what makes these events memorable is not the dress or suit worn, where the event is held or size of the limousine. It should instead be all about having a fantastic time with those who have been important parts of their school journey.



### International Day of People with Disability: 3 December

The International Day of People with Disability is observed annually on 3 December. In Australia, over many years, the Church has sought to take this day as an opportunity to encourage a truly pastoral view that embraces our total community as the living Body of Christ. We especially pray that we, the Church, can strive to be a people of compassion and relationship, and a sacred place where our gifts are acknowledged, received and celebrated; for then we can truly proclaim that we are 'one Body in Christ'.

### Nigerian Mass in Igbo: 10 December

Rev Fr Chukwunonyerem Akamadu, Chaplain to the Nigerian Catholic community, will celebrate Mass at 11.30am at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes. Contact Fr Akamadu tel 0451 174 438, Stella Nwosu 0405 478 472.



## CHRISTMAS 2017 AND JANUARY 2018:

### COSHC OPERATION DATES

To assist COSHC families in planning their education and care needs over the Christmas closure period and to plan bookings for Vacation Care in January 2018, a calendar of Closure Dates and Operational Dates has been issued to all families enrolled with COSHC.

#### **COSHC WILL BE CLOSED ON:**

- Monday, 18 December 2017 and Tuesday, 19 December, 2017. COSHC staff will be participating in professional development in line with teachers and school staff.
- The Early Learning and Care team will be on annual leave from 22 December, 2017 to 5 January 2018. COSHC will not be operating during these days.
- COSHC will be closed on Australia Day, 26 January, 2018
- COSHC will be closed on Monday, 29 January 2018 for professional development of staff.

#### **FAMILIES, PLEASE NOTE:**

- Christmas Closure**
  - The **last day of operation** of COSHC services will be Friday, 15 December 2017.
- January Vacation Care**
  - The COSHC Summer Vacation Care Program commences on Monday, 8 January, 2018 to Thursday 25 January 2018.
- 2018 Commencement of COSHC operations for Before- and After-School programs**
  - COSHC will re-open on Tuesday, 30 January, 2018.

#### **Good Shepherd Primary School**

134 Hyatts Road, Locked Bag 1001, Plumpton NSW 2761 - Phone: 9836 7100 - Fax: 9836 7199  
Email: [goodshepherd@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:goodshepherd@parra.catholic.edu.au) - Website: [www.gsplumpton.catholic.edu.au](http://www.gsplumpton.catholic.edu.au)





# Good Shepherd Parent Group Christmas Disco

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Kinder to Year 2     4:30pm to 5:30pm**

**Year 3 to Year 6     5:45pm to 7:00pm**

**Entry Fee \$4.00 per child.**

**Sausage Sizzle, Drinks and Chips will be available for purchase on the night. Glow jewellery will be also available for purchase at \$4.00 each or 3 for \$10.00.**

**Parents please make sure you collect your children at finish of the allocated times. \$1.00 from each child's entry will be donated to the Children's Hospital.**







# GOOD SHEPHERD PRIMARY SCHOOL

134 Hyatts Road, Plumpton 2761

Mail Address: **Locked Bag 1001 Plumpton NSW 2761**

**Telephone: (02) 9836 7100 Fax: (02) 9836 7199**

email: [goodshepherd@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:goodshepherd@parra.catholic.edu.au)

website: [www.gsplumpton.catholic.edu.au](http://www.gsplumpton.catholic.edu.au)

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22<sup>nd</sup> November 2017

Dear Parents,

As an extension of our learning across a number of Key Learning Areas this term, Kindergarten will be having a Christmas t-shirt day. On this day students are asked to wear a Christmas t-shirt or Christmas colours and bring in a type of party food or drink to share with the rest of the class. Students will participate in Christmas related activities on this day.

Details of the day are as follows:

- Date:** Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017 (Week 9)
- What to wear:** Christmas t-shirt or Christmas colours. If your child does not have any Christmas clothes they can wear their sports uniform
- What to bring:** a type of party food or drink to share with the rest of the class, eg. chips, popcorn, cordial, biscuits, juice etc. Please note **no nut products** or products that require cooking or heating are to be brought into school. If you chose to prepare something at home, a list of ingredients will need to be provided.

Should you have any questions please speak to your child's teacher.

We look forward to taking part in this exciting day with your child.

Thank you for your continued support,  
The Kindergarten Team



## Parish Focus for 2017

Celebrating Ethnic Diversity



Forming Disciples



Engaging our youth

### GOOD SHEPHERD PARISH

Capuchin Franciscan Friars  
PO BOX 91 Plumpton, NSW 2761  
Tel 9832 4461

**PARISH TEAM:** Parish Priest Fr. Vincy D'COSTA ofmcap  
Assistant Priest Fr Joshy PARRAPULLY ofmcap  
Parish Secretary Mrs Socorro MORGAN  
Musical Director Mr Jacob WIELGOSZ  
Parish Council Chairperson Ms Anna MAGELE

Parish Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8.00am – 4pm

Office Email: [parishof@tpg.com.au](mailto:parishof@tpg.com.au)

**ROSTERS:** [parishrosters@tpg.com.au](mailto:parishrosters@tpg.com.au)

Website [www.goodshepherd.org.au](http://www.goodshepherd.org.au)

Facebook: goodshepherdplumpton

## What's happening in DECEMBER

- 1st** (Fri) SRE Regional Meeting 9:30a-2pm  
1st Fri Mass @ 7:30pm followed by all night Vigil
- 2nd** (Sat) Mass @ 8am with Anointing
- 3rd** (Sun) St Nicholas Festa Mass @ 3pm  
Fireworks @ 8pm
- 11th** (Mon) Good Shepherd Sch Yr 6 Graduation Mass @ 6pm
- 13th** (Wed) **2ND Rite Reconciliation @ 7:30p**
- 14th** (Thur) **EOY Mass Good Shepherd School**
- 15th** (Fri) **2017 School Term Concludes**
- 16th** (Sat) Fr Gerard's Farewell @ 8pm
- 21st** (Thur) Mass @ Southern X Homes 9:30a
- 24th** (Sun) Christmas Eve
- 25th** (Mon) Christmas Day

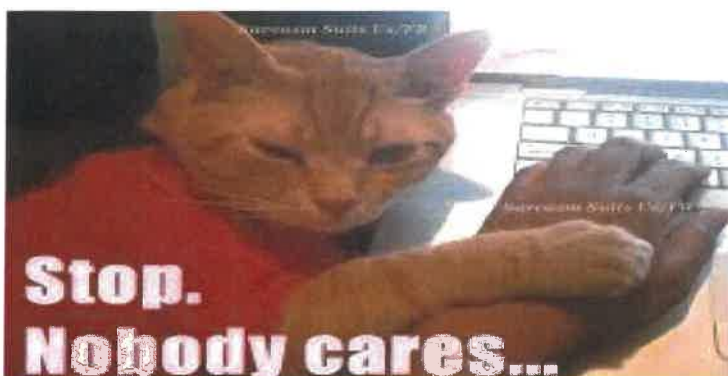
The Diocese of Parramatta is delighted to announce the establishment of The 'Catholic Foundation', which will replace the **Diocesan Works Fund**, and expand on its good works.

The Catholic Foundation needs to raise \$2.5 million annually to sustain the works of the Church in Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains - including the formation of our seminarians, providing Christian education in public schools, the empowering of our disabled with job training, supporting our deaf and housing vulnerable single mothers facing homelessness. To achieve these great works, The Catholic Foundation proudly supports Holy Spirit Seminary, The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, the Ephpheta Centre and CatholicCare.

**Donations of \$2 or more to The Catholic Foundation are tax deductible.**

The Catholic Foundation will also manage The Catholic Fund, which will house gifts such as bequests and donations for special projects. Donations to this fund are not tax deductible. The Catholic Foundation aims to annually increase donations to further sustain, grow and expand the good works from our faithful in the Diocese – building faith, hope and charity across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains. ....**More in the coming bulletins**

Are you spending too much time on social media?.....



Since this is [officially] my last weekend in the parish, I want to take this opportunity to say a few words of thank you to the parish community. I've had two turns at being parish priest here now (and I'm not expecting a third!) and it has been my great privilege to serve and be part of this community. Since 2012 we have been busy implementing the Diocesan Pastoral Plan "Faith in our future" and we have experienced considerable growth and development in that time. This means our parish is well positioned for moving forward in the years ahead, consolidating the new developments (ministries and services) and learning new ways to share and to grow our Catholic Faith. Thank you to all who have contributed in a direct way to the growth of our parish—especially those who have served on the finance Committee, the Pastoral Planning Committee, the Liturgy committee and the Parish Council. May Jesus the Good Shepherd continue to guide and bless the members of this great parish. **Fr. Gerard O'Dempsey ofmcap**

**Advent** is in many ways difficult to come to grips with. This is especially so in Australia where it comes at the beginning of summer, as the school and working years conclude and beaches and barbeques beckon. There is a tendency for the busy-ness of shopping, parties and planning for Christmas Day to overtake the rhythm of the church year.

What then do we make of Advent? It is, of course, the curtain raiser and very much part of the Christmas season. Christmas Time does not end on 25th December but continues through the feasts of the *Mother of God*, the *Epiphany* and the *Baptism of the Lord*. In the background is always Mary's 'Yes', which grounds these marvellous events and shows us how to respond.

The texts of Advent – the scripture readings, prefaces and prayers – are some of the richest treasures of the Church's liturgy and draw us into the true spirit and purpose of the Advent season.

The special focus of Advent, as the word's origins indicate, can be summed up in the phrase *Here he comes*. As we enter its meaning, we look back in time, look forward in time and open our eyes fully to the present.

We prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus as the beginning of the decisive answer to those prayers. As we look back in time and identify with our ancestors in faith, we marvel at how God's answer went beyond anything they had dreamt. *Here he comes*.

A Saviour has been born for us, has died and risen for us. We look for him to come again, because we do not yet see the fullness of his Kingdom. This looking forward in time is the second meaning of *Here he comes*. In the epistle readings of Advent this year, Paul and James urge their communities – and us – to wait patiently for the completion of our salvation.

And *here he comes* right now. Christ is present today in his Church in word, sacrament and community. We can see him in the faces of the poor, the suffering and the powerless.

Advent is a time to let the Holy Spirit open our eyes to the presence of Jesus Christ alive today, even within ourselves. Every Christian in some way conceives and gives birth to the Word of God. In the faith, we bring Christ to a world that is waiting.

The period of Advent and Christmas is a time for us to ponder more deeply and proclaim to the world the Word of God made flesh. In this season, every Christian is called to share, through whatever opportunities the Lord provides, the good news that God has entered our human condition to unite us to him.

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## Looking forward to 2018:

<b>January:</b>	21st Santo Nino Feast.
<b>February:</b>	14th Ash Wednesday
<b>March:</b>	25th Palm Sunday 29th Holy Thursday 30th Good Friday 31st Holy Sat/ Easter Vigil
<b>April:</b>	1st Easter Sunday 3rd Alpha training begins 17th Alpha Prog begins 22nd Good Shepherd Sunday
<b>May:</b>	14th Training for new Readers/ Extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion begins (runs for 3 Wks) 19th Min's recollection day 20th Pentecost Sunday 27th CLProgramme begins (CFCA) ends July 15.
<b>June:</b>	14th/21st/28th Cantor Training Programme
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## Christmas Mass Times

**Dec 24 (Sun) Christmas EVE**

6pm Children's Christmas Mass

8pm Youth Christmas Mass

MID-Night Mass @ midnight

**Dec 25 (Mon) Christmas Day**

7am / 9am / 12noon (Vietnamese)

**NO 6pm Christmas Mass**

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**Advent** is in many ways difficult to come to grips with. This is especially so in Australia where it comes at the beginning of summer, as the school and working years conclude and beaches and barbeques beckon. There is a tendency for the busy-ness of shopping, parties and planning for Christmas Day to overtake the rhythm of the church year.

What then do we make of Advent? It is, of course, the curtain raiser and very much part of the Christmas season. Christmas Time does not end on 25th December but continues through the feasts of the *Mother of God*, the *Epiphany* and the *Baptism of the Lord*. In the background is always Mary's 'Yes', which grounds these marvellous events and shows us how to respond.

The texts of Advent – the scripture readings, prefaces and prayers – are some of the richest treasures of the Church's liturgy and draw us into the true spirit and purpose of the Advent season.

The special focus of Advent, as the word's origins indicate, can be summed up in the phrase *Here he comes*. As we enter its meaning, we look back in time, look forward in time and open our eyes fully to the present.

We prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus as the beginning of the decisive answer to those prayers. As we look back in time and identify with our ancestors in faith, we marvel at how God's answer went beyond anything they had dreamt. *Here he comes*.

A Saviour has been born for us, has died and risen for us. We look for him to come again, because we do not yet see the fullness of his Kingdom. This looking forward in time is the second meaning of *Here he comes*. In the epistle readings of Advent this year, Paul and James urge their communities – and us – to wait patiently for the completion of our salvation.

And *here he comes* right now. Christ is present today in his Church in word, sacrament and community. We can see him in the faces of the poor, the suffering and the powerless.

Advent is a time to let the Holy Spirit open our eyes to the presence of Jesus Christ alive today, even within ourselves. Every Christian in some way conceives and gives birth to the Word of God. In the faith, we bring Christ to a world that is waiting.

The period of Advent and Christmas is a time for us to ponder more deeply and proclaim to the world the Word of God made flesh. In this season, every Christian is called to share, through whatever opportunities the Lord provides, the good news that God has entered our human condition to unite us to him.

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## Looking forward to 2018:

<b>January:</b>	21st Santo Nino Feast.
<b>February:</b>	14th Ash Wednesday
<b>March:</b>	25th Palm Sunday 29th Holy Thursday 30th Good Friday 31st Holy Sat/ Easter Vigil
<b>April:</b>	1st Easter Sunday 3rd Alpha training begins 17th Alpha Prog begins 22nd Good Shepherd Sunday
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21nd November 2017

## School Bus 6010

### Consultation Period – 27<sup>th</sup> November to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents and Students,

Busways are in the process of reviewing services in your area and as a result we are **proposing** changes to the school service as detailed below.

**School Bus 6010** is to commence at **7 minutes earlier** at **8:00am** from **Symonds Rd and Richmond Rd** and **operate 7 minutes earlier** throughout the trip. There will be **no change** to path of the school bus to **Plumpton High School** or **Good Shepherd Primary School**.

Please provide your feedback on the above proposed service by emailing [info@busways.com.au](mailto:info@busways.com.au) or by contacting Busways Customer Service on **9497 1878**.

Yours sincerely

**BUSWAYS BLACKTOWN PTY LTD**  
(1887c) SB 6010 200B.

Busways Blacktown P/L ABN 86 000 173 437 T (02) 9625 8900 F (02) 9625 4703 150 Glendenning Rd Glendenning NSW 2761	Busways Blacktown P/L Perinth Depot T (02) 4721 9900 F (02) 4732 6160 47-53 Mullins Rd Perinth NSW 2750	Busways Blacktown P/L Windsor Depot T (02) 4574 9200 F (02) 4577 9054 91 Mulgrave Rd Mulgrave NSW 2756	Busways Gosford P/L ABN 79 817 812 619 T (02) 4368 2277 F (02) 4368 2077 42 Empire Bay Dr Kincumber NSW 2251	Busways Wyong P/L ABN 17 000 041 726 T (02) 4392 6666 F (02) 4392 5831 9 Arizona Rd Woongarah NSW 2253	Busways North Coast P/L ABN 75 106 202 340 T (02) 6583 2499 F (02) 6583 2388 6 B Denham St Port Macquarie NSW 2444
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Transport  
for NSW

# Changes to Sydney's train network

We're making some improvements to Sydney's rail system to ensure we meet the needs of our growing city as part of the NSW Government's \$1.5 billion More Trains More Services Program. A new train timetable will be introduced later this year and we've released a refreshed train network map to help customers prepare.

Please see overleaf for the explanation of the changes to the map that have been numbered below.





## Key facts

### ① Line direction labels

The map clearly illustrates a train's direction of travel in addition to its line — a need both regular customers and visitors have highlighted to us. For example, customers travelling from Wynyard will catch a T1 Northern train for Pennant Hills.



### ② Line colour adjustments

Aside from the new T2, you'll notice some train lines on the map have had a minor change in tone or shade. This is so that customers can better distinguish between the different lines, making your travel even easier.

### ③ T2 Inner West extends to Parramatta

We're boosting direct access to and from Sydney's second CBD. The extended T2 Inner West, shown in light blue, connects customers commuting from Macdonaldtown through Croydon, Homebush and Flemington directly to Parramatta with no need to change trains morning to evening, Monday to Friday.

Customers travelling to and from stations west of Parramatta will be able to interchange at Parramatta for stations on the extended T2 Inner West. In the opposite direction, the T2 City services starting at Parramatta will relieve already congested T1 City services, meaning a faster trip for customers coming from further west on the T1 Western.

### ④ T2 and T5 changes for Campbelltown

T2 and T5 services will no longer operate to and from Campbelltown. This will allow us to operate more T8 services between the City and stations from Campbelltown to Macquarie Fields, which is the route the majority of customers from these stations use.

### ⑤ T5 extended to Richmond

The T5 now extends to Richmond because it will be the line providing services between Blacktown and Richmond late at night seven days a week. For all other time periods, the T5 will end no further than Schofields where customers can change to and from a T1 service to Richmond.

### ⑥ T8 Airport-South

The airport is a key destination for locals and tourists, so we've made it easier to identify such services with its own line code.



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