



Good Shepherd Primary School Newsletter

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Good Shepherd Primary School
134 Hyatts Road
Plumpton NSW 2761
Telephone: 9836 7100

Email:
goodshepherd@parra.catholic.edu.au

Principal:
Mrs Patricia Carr



Good Shepherd Parish
136 Hyatts Road
Plumpton
Telephone: 9832 4461

Email:
parishof@tpg.com.au

Parish Priest:
Fr Vincy D'Costa
ofmcap

Term 3 concludes:
Thursday, 26th September

Term 4 commences:
Monday, 14th October

Term 3

Week 4

Tuesday, 13th August, 2019

Dear Parents

This Thursday is the feast of the Assumption of Mary into heaven. It is a Holy Day of Obligation in our church, which is why we go to Mass on this special day.

If we were asked to offer a phrase or two to describe the word "mother", most of us would come up with something like this: an amazing, multi-talented person, who gives birth, demonstrates loyalty, bears sorrow, offers support and encouragement, looks after her family.

Well, from the most ancient of times, Mary has been venerated under the title of God-bearer or Mother of God. Down through the ages, paintings and statues of Mary have mostly given expression to a "motherly smile", a smile that is welcoming and expresses peace and serenity.

Mary was regarded as a mother figure for Christians of the early Church. The Christians of the early Church would have been well aware of the role Mary fulfilled as a constant connection with Christ. It was she who had nurtured Him during the years leading up to His public life. She had a leading role at the marriage celebration in Cana, when Jesus began His public life. At the end of His life, Mary witnessed the sorrowful events of the Passion, Crucifixion and Death of her Son.

Mary was with the Apostles when they gave witness to the facts of the Resurrection and Ascension. It was Mary, the constant Mother, who prayed with the Apostles and sustained them in their belief until the First Pentecost.

There is little written about Mary, especially what happened after Pentecost, but there is strong evidence, through tradition, that at the end of her life she was united with her Son in a manner similar to how her Son was united with His Father.

After an in-depth study of tradition and the early writings of the Church, and after broad consultation with bishops, theologians and lay people, Pope Pius XII in 1950 declared that, ".... The Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul to heavenly glory".

Mary had been so closely associated with all the mysteries of Jesus' life, so it is not surprising that the Holy Spirit has led the Church to believe and declare, that she must be with Him body and soul in heaven. Mary is now in a position to be mother to all people for all time.

"Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us, your people, now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

Peace and Best Wishes

Patricia Carr

Tricia Carr
Principal



Upcoming Events

Wednesday, 14th August:	Voice of Youth Glendenning Cluster Finals
Thursday, 15th August:	The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary— Whole School Mass (9.00 am Good Shepherd Church)
Monday, 19th August:	Book Week commences
Thursday, 22nd August:	Whole School Book Parade & Book Week Activities—please see attachment
Wednesday, 28th August:	Netball Gala Day
Wednesday, 28th August:	Father's Day Breakfast BBQ (7.00 am—8.00 am Good Shepherd School. Following breakfast there will be a Liturgy in the Good Shepherd Church commencing at 9.00 am)
Thursday, 29th August:	Father's Day Stall
Friday, 30th August:	Kindergarten Teddy Bear's Picnic—(12.00 pm onwards. Please refer to attachment)
Sunday, 1st September:	Father's Day

Fruity Friday

What do you know about the.....Avocado !!!

Avocados grow on evergreen trees. Evergreen means the tree doesn't shed its leaves in the autumn. Avocado trees need to grow in an area that has excellent drainage, porous soil and is sheltered from strong winds and frosts. They prefer a climate that is tropical - cool winters and hot humid summers.



Why not try this recipe?

Avocado and Chicken Tacos

Chop avocado and mix with cooked, diced chicken, chopped chives and pecan nuts. Stir through some mayonnaise and chopped parsley. Fill taco shells, eat and enjoy!

ACARA Collection Student Background Data Notice:

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) collects data from schools to determine the Index of Community Socio-educational Advantage (ICSEA). CEDP is currently working to provide relevant details to the Catholic Education Commission of NSW. Data collected is de-identified of personal information.

Parents and caregivers must advise their school if they don't want their child's data included in this report by 30 August 2019

Copies of Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta (CEDP) Standard Collection Notice and Privacy Policy can be obtained from the school office.

Term 3 2019 Staff Development Day (Pupil Free Day)

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. Term 3's Staff Development Day is a Pupil Free Day and will take place on **Friday, 27th September (Week 10)**. Our thanks to parents for organising care for their children on this day. COSHC will be able to offer spaces for care on this day. Please phone COSHC on Ph. 0409 121 980 for all inquiries and bookings.

News from CathWest Innovation College

As you know, from 2020 Loyola and McCarthy Catholic Trade Training Centres will become part of CathWest Innovation College. You and your family are invited to attend the upcoming CathWest Innovation College information events to learn more, details below:

Date: Tuesday 20 August and Wednesday 4 September
Time: 4.00pm to 8.00pm, presentations at 6:00pm and 7:30pm
Location: CathWest Innovation College
 Loyola Campus
 91 North Parade Mount Druitt

Building on the achievements of both Trade Training Centres as well as Loyola Senior High, CathWest will offer exciting new options for students from Year 10. Professional mentoring, industry partnerships, work placements and recognised qualifications will support this learning.

McCarthy Catholic Trade Training Centre in Emu Plains will become the 'McCarthy Campus' of CathWest Innovation College, and Loyola in Mount Druitt will be known as CathWest Innovation College, 'Loyola Campus'. With innovative pathways for students alongside the current trades training pathway, CathWest Innovation College will have a strong focus on developing skills for success.

2019 Dates

Term 3

Concludes: Thursday, 26th September

Term 4

Commences: Monday, 14th October (Week 1)

Concludes: Wednesday, 18th December

2019 Staff Development Days (Pupil Free Days)

Term 3: Friday 27th September

Term 4: Thursday, 19th December and Friday 20th December

Social Skill of the Week

"Take your hat off inside"

Summer Uniform

Parents, please note that the official changeover date for summer uniform is **Monday, 28th October, 2019 (Week 3 Term 4)**. The correct school uniform should be worn at all times, in order to maintain expectations. If, for any reason, a child is unable to wear any part of the correct uniform, a note should be sent to your child's class teacher. Parents who have difficulty securing uniforms for their children please make an appointment with Mrs Carr, Principal, to discuss options. **THE SCHOOL HAT IS AN ESSENTIAL ITEM OF SCHOOL UNIFORM. THE WEARING OF THE SCHOOL HAT IS COMPULSORY.** For a full list of the School Uniform requirements, please refer to the following:

GIRLS

Uniform: Regulation School Uniform, Green Hair Ribbons, White turn-down School Socks, Black School Shoes.

Sports: Unisex Sports Shorts with School Crest OR Green School Track Pants, Short sleeved White Polo Shirt with School Crest, Green Sports Jumper, White turn-down School Socks and Joggers predominantly white.

BOYS

Uniform: School white short-sleeved shirt with lay-back collar, Black Shorts, Black turn-down socks and Black School Shoes.

Sports: Unisex Sports Shorts with School Crest OR Green School Track Pants, Short sleeved White Polo Shirt with School Crest, Green Sports Jumper, White turn-down School Socks and Joggers predominantly white.

The School Jumper with crest may be worn at any time throughout the year. The School Hat with crest is a compulsory school item to be worn every day. The School's Uniform Supplier is Lowes, Mt Druitt. Please mark all school clothing with your child's name to avoid lost property!!

Policies and Forms

For all policies and forms, please refer to our School Website—"About Us"—"Policies & Procedures". Please note our Parent Handbook is on our School Website under "Enrol Now" for your convenience.

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	Abuok Mawien	KG	Jeremiah Silalahi
KR	Ellyse Brielle Danguilan	KW	Callia Joseph
1B	Mark Tooma	1G	Emmanuel McGill
1R	Krishan Chand	1W	Jahliah Palu
2B	Isaac Narayan	2G	Moses Sene
2R	Andrei Bichescu	2W	Harrison Coote
3B	Nixon Baduria	3G	Brianna Saxelby
3R	Charlie Armitage	3W	Joanne Shibu
4B	Maya Portugal	4G	Kyeesha Narayan
4R	Cyrus McGill	4W	Lebron Manalo
5B	Josette Attard	5G	Laurina Aziz
5R	Jayden Fernandez-Zamora	5W	Alexander Zeya
6B	Marsha Szulgit	6G	Marta Ghilagaber
6R	Hannah Soans		

Privacy Consent

Dear Parents & Carers,

If you do not give consent for the use of your child's image and/or works to be published in our School Newsletter or on our website, **please notify the school in writing**. If you do not want your child to sell raffle tickets, please also inform the school office. Thank you.

Communication between Parents and Staff

Just a reminder that the direct line of communication if you need to discuss concerns/issues etc regarding your child is:

Email, phone call or letter addressed to your child's teacher stating your concerns and requesting an interview if required.

Following this, you can request an interview with your child's Year Group Coordinator. Year Group Coordinators are as follows:

Kinder: Mrs Bianca Cooke

Year 1: Mrs Trish Conner

Year 2: Mrs Yvonne Davies

Year 3: Mrs Debbie Dela Paz

Year 4: Mrs Beulah Frankson

Year 5: Mr Ian Byrne

Year 6: Ms Elizabeth Le Breton

If you need to take further steps, after speaking with the Year Group Co-Ordinator, an email, letter or phone call to our Assistant Principal, then to the Principal.

No Nut Policy

A number of our students have severe allergies. Please do not send peanut butter/Nutella sandwiches or other foods containing whole or crushed nuts or sesame seeds to school. This also includes excursions!

A special invitation to: Dads, Grandads, carers!

In celebration of Father's Day we are holding a special morning for you!

Wednesday 28th August 7.00 am to 8.00 am

Lets start with a nice hot BBQ Brekky at 7.00 am followed by a Liturgy at 9.00 am. Dad, Grandad—if you are bringing the children to school—they can join you for breakfast too!
We will celebrate your special day with a Liturgy in Church at 9.00 am!
Everyone welcome.

Bike & Skateboard Awareness - Keeping the children safe

Dear families, If your child rides a bicycle to school, (with or without supervision), please ensure that you have signed the Bicycle Policy and returned it to school. Please also ensure that the child enters the school using the walkers' gate and not through the carpark entrances or drop off circle. A copy of the Road Safety Policy & Bicycle Safety Policy 2019 is available at the office or on the school's website.

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.

Kindergarten 2020 Enrolments

**PLEASE!!
NOTE**

Enrolment Application forms for Kindergarten 2020 are now 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 2020.

School Fees 2019

Dear Parents, accounts for the third instalment of school fees have been posted out. **Payment is due 28th August**. Any family having difficulty completing term payments on time and who wish to make payments by instalments using cash, Centrelink or BPay etc, please contact the School Office for an appointment to set up a new arrangement. **Please note that a term's notice in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or 10 week's fees will be payable.**

Small change for a big result!

Dear Families of Good Shepherd,
Please continue to keep the goodwill rolling for Fr Luan. If you have any noisy, rattling coins in your car, wallet or purse we can help you! Please donate spare 5 cent or other coins. So far we have reached half way to one generator. Your small change makes a **BIG** difference. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

School Shoes & Joggers

At this time of the year we often find that children need their school shoes & joggers replaced. Please remember if you are buying new school shoes, **they are to be black**. If you need to replace joggers, they should be **predominantly white**. No fluoro or bright colours. For information on uniform and hairstyle requirements, please see our school website.



Contact Details

Parents, it is vital that all contact information including phone/mobile numbers, emergency contacts, home address, email address are kept up to date. **Please contact the School Office if any changes need to be made.** Thank you.

Australian Citizenship Papers

If parents or students become Australian Citizens at any time during the year, could you please provide the school with a copy of your certificate so we can put it with your child's enrolment forms. This is needed for audit purposes. Thank you.



Parent Group News

Uniform Shop

Our uniform shop is open on Fridays from 8:30 am to 9:00 am during the school term.
The shop is located next to the library behind the Year 5 classrooms. Thank you to the parents who volunteer each week to run the shop. **Please note cash sales only—No Eftpos!**

Is my child too ill to attend school?

What signs should I watch for to see if my child should stay home from school? Sick children who are lethargic or whiny are often giving clues that they require rest at home to recuperate. Other possible signs of illness are fever, uncontrolled coughing, difficulty breathing, wheezing or persistent crying. Did the doctor diagnose a contagious illness that should keep your child at home? In this case, your child should remain at home until the risk of passing on the illness has passed. When can my child return to school?

As long as there is no fever or discomfort, a child with a cold may go to school, as long as they are not too uncomfortable to function in school. Instruct the child on the proper use of tissues for coughing, sneezing, and nose blowing. They should also be taught good hand-washing techniques, since research has shown that more colds are spread via contaminated hands than by infected droplets in the air.



Damage to Library Books

Each week damaged library books are returned to the Resource Centre. The most common cause is leaking drink bottles. Some books have also made their way into the hands of younger siblings and have been scribbled all over. Please encourage your children to take care with school resources. If an accident does occur, please ask your children to inform us. The book needs to be replaced. Plastic or vinyl Library bags help protect books from leaking drink bottles or drink bottle bags keep drink bottles away from books. Each week we get at least one or two damaged books. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.



Children Absent from School

In the event of your child being absent from school due to illness, please inform the school office by phone or email. It is necessary that a written note of explanation be forwarded to the class teacher

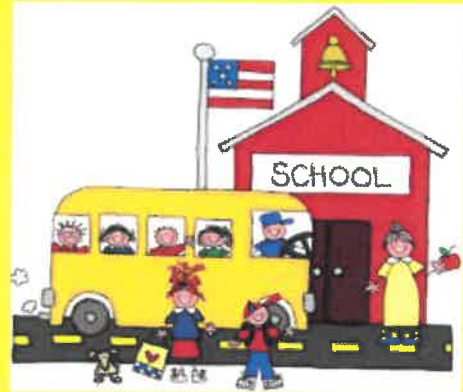
on the day of your child's return to school. Prolonged absences from school due to illness should be supported by a medical certificate.



Student Supervision

As you know it is a priority at Good Shepherd Primary School to keep every child safe. Teachers have a duty of care to supervise children both in class and on the playground. This **supervision commences at 8.10 am each morning**. Prior to then no child should be dropped off at school. Similarly afternoon supervision of children concludes at 3.15 pm. **All children must be picked up by this time.**

It is vital that parents seek a safe, supervised environment whilst they are away at work. It is not the responsibility of school staff to provide before and after school care whilst parents are at work. School staff have their own personal and professional responsibilities to attend to in out of school hours. Thank you for your support with this matter.



Flora
and
fauna

Foliage:
The foliage
from the plant
was yellow.

Year 2 Excursion to the theatre to see 'The 13 Storey Treehouse'

"The 13 Storey Treehouse play was performed at Chatswood on the 7th August. All of Year 2 saw the performance of the show.

The play was very cool because they introduced the 2D and 3D machine! Also Andy and Terry used their imagination to begin the play.

The part I did not like was when Barky the dog kept barking at the giant Gorilla!

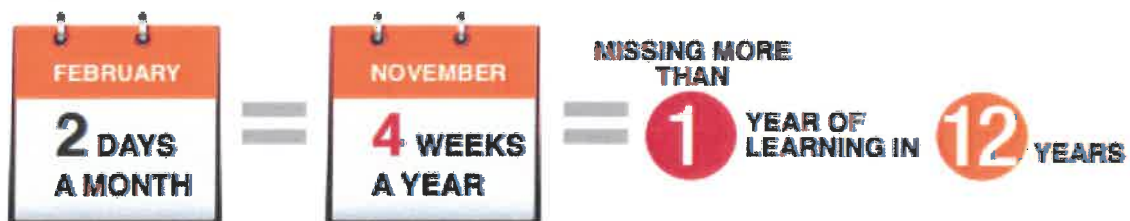
I would recommend this play for Year 2 to Year 6." By Czarina 2W



Attendance matters !!

every learner every day 

ABSENCES ADD UP!



DID YOU KNOW



1 IN 6

PRIMARY STUDENTS ARE NOT
ATTENDING SCHOOL REGULARLY!

EACH DAY MISSED:

- ▶ Puts your child behind and makes it harder for them to catch up
- ▶ Can lead to lower achievement in reading, writing and numeracy
- ▶ Can lead to gaps in learning and social connections

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO



GOOD HABITS BEGIN EARLY



Good attendance starts in Kindergarten and sets students up for success in their school life



SCHOOLS ARE THERE TO HELP

If you're having attendance issues with your child, speak to your school about ways to address it.

every learner
every day 



News from the Catholic Education Office



Parents Representative Council

SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



Building Young People to Face Modern Day Challenges

James will speak to the modern day challenges facing our young people as revealed through a number of recent national and local surveys, Diocesan student forums and countless candid conversations with young people in the Diocese of Parramatta. James presentation will explore a culture of belonging, Wellbeing and positive engagement. He will outline what and how his team is able to assist young people to face these modern day challenges.



High school aged students are invited to attend with a caregiver or parent.



Our guest speaker for the evening is:

JAMES CAMDEN

Director of Catholic Youth Parramatta

Register FREE now: www.prc.catholic.edu.au



Monday, 26th August 2019

Doors open: 6:30pm for 7:00pm (2 hours)
(PRC General Meeting - will be held prior to guest speaker)

**St Andrews Primary School,
36 Breakfast Rd, Marayong, NSW 2148**

Light supper and refreshments will be provided, and a lucky door prize will be up for grabs!

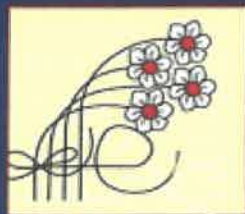
www.prc.catholic.edu.au



@preparra



@preparra



THANK YOU TO OUR 2019 SPONSOR

Floral Expressions

For details on the School fundraising program

Call Charles Lukasik on 02 9683 1116



News from the Bishop's Office

Jesus Light of the World Communities Formation Day: 17 August

The Jesus Light of the World Communities is hosting a Formation Day on the theme 'Here I Am (Isaiah 6:8)' at St Joseph's Parish Hall, Walz St, Rockdale on Saturday 17 August from 9am to 4pm. Morning and afternoon tea will be served. For enquiries, contact Helen on 0488 037 631, Ida on 0424 267 500 or email jlowcommunity@gmail.com

Divine Retreat Centre Inner Healing Retreat: 17 – 18 August

The Divine Retreat Centre in Somersby, NSW is holding an inner healing retreat on 17 and 18 August. Accommodation and food will be provided. For more information, please contact 0468 486 782, email drsydney@gmail.com or visit www.divineretreatcentre.org.au

Nature, Science and the Bible in Australia: 17 August

The Blackheath History Forum is presenting religious historian Dr Meredith Lake as she discusses the topic 'Nature, Science and the Bible in Australia' on Saturday August 17 at Blackheath Public School. Doors open at 3.30pm with afternoon tea, talk starts at 4pm. \$5 entry fee (free for those 18 and under). For more information, contact richard.white@sydney.edu.au or visit <https://blackheathhistoryforum.org.au>

Christian Meditation: 18 August

Christian Meditation Introduction and Renewal Day at St Benedict's Monastery, Arcadia. Presentations, Introduction to Meditation for newcomers and Meditation for on-going meditators. After the lunch break for BYO picnic lunch we will have Mass. This is a free event and accommodation may be available at the monastery guest house. For enquires please contact Ann Bergman on anniebergman@hotmail.com or Ann Lomas on atlomas@bigpond.com or 9653 2637.

2019 Faith in Marriage Seminar: 30 August

American Catholic Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers is the guest speaker at The Life, Family and Marriage Office's 2019 Faith in Marriage Seminar on Friday 30 August at St Paul's Catholic College Hall, Greystanes from 7.30pm. Free entry and a light supper will be served afterwards. Donations are welcome. Please register your attendance to 02 8838 3460 or lmf@parracatholic.org

Bishop's Annual Appeal for Retired and Sick Priests: 1 September

There will be a special collection for the Clergy Support Foundation of the Diocese – on Father's Day. Your donation helps them cover healthcare costs and expenses associated with everyday living, supplementing the pension that some receive. Please give generously this Father's Day Appeal. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible. Donations can be made here: parracatholic.org/csf

Adult Confirmation: 10 September

Adult Confirmation for 2019 will be held on Tuesday 10 September at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta from 7.30pm. A Catechesis Day for Adult Confirmation will be held on Saturday 31 August from 9.30am to 2pm. Any adult over 16 years wanting to be confirmed please see your Parish Office for information or contact the Office for Worship on 02 8838 3456 or mary-louise.walsh@parracatholic.org

Ministry of Communion to the Sick and Dying Ongoing Formation: 14 September

The Office for Worship is organising a formation day for those already involved in the ministry, Ministers of Communion to the Sick and the Dying on Saturday 14 September at the Institute for Mission, Blacktown, from 9:30am until 2pm. Morning tea and lunch will be provided. RSVP by 10 September. To RSVP, please contact the Office for Worship team on anne.alimangohan@parracatholic.org or 8838 3456.

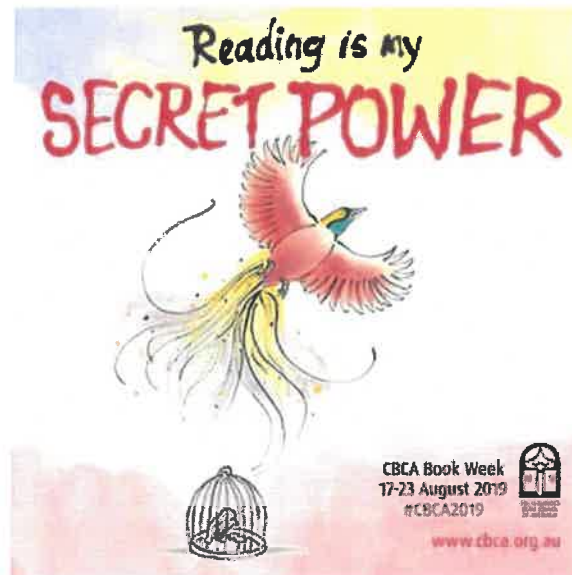
Australian Catholic Youth Festival, Perth: 7 – 11 December 2019

ACYF19 is a biennial national gathering of Catholic young people established by the Bishops of Australia. The event involves three days of exciting, large scale Plenary's, tens of workshops, concerts, prayer experiences, fun, expos and concludes with an outdoor mass with the City of Perth. Bishop Vincent and Catholic Youth Parramatta will be leading an expected 200 participants. Free twin-share hotel accommodation is being offered now. For more information and to register visit www.catholicyouthparramatta.org

Good Shepherd Primary School

134 Hyatts Road, Locked Bag 1001, Plumpton NSW 2761 - Phone: 9836 7100
Email: goodshepherd@parra.catholic.edu.au - Website: www.gsplumpton.catholic.edu.au

2019 Book Week!



Book Week was established by the Children's Book Council of Australia in 1946 to recognise and celebrate Australia's most creative authors and illustrators, and promote quality literature for young Australians. The Book Week theme for this year is ***Reading is my Secret Power.***

We will be celebrating in Week 5 at Good Shepherd Primary School with a book study in each grade during literacy throughout the week. To conclude Book Week, on ***Thursday, August 22*** we will have a ***Book Week Parade*** followed by grade activities throughout the day.

Everyone is invited to dress up as a character from their favourite book. Remember, it doesn't have to be anything too expensive. You can easily make your costumes from items you have at home.

So start thinking, everyone...

Who will you be dressing up as for our Book Week Celebration Extravaganza??!!



GOOD SHEPHERD PRIMARY SCHOOL

134 Hyatts Road, Plumpton 2761

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

Telephone: **(02) 9836 7100** Fax: **(02) 9832 8984**

email: goodshepherd@parra.catholic.edu.au

website: www.gsplumpton.catholic.edu.au

13th August 2019

Kindergarten are having a



Family and friends are invited to join Kindergarten for a Teddy Bear's Picnic.

On this day, the children are asked to bring their favourite teddy bear to school. They will take part in teddy bear activities, parade their bear for others to see and sing teddy bear songs. Parents, family and friends are invited to join along in the "Beary Festivities" and bring a picnic lunch to share with your child.

If you child does not have a teddy bear, they are welcome to bring any other soft toy.

WHEN: Friday 30th August 2019 (Week 6)

TIME: Parade from 12.00pm, Picnic from approx. 12:30pm
Playtime concludes at 1:50pm, then children return to class

WHAT TO BRING: A favourite teddy bear (adults too!)
A picnic lunch and something to sit on

WEAR: The children wear their School Uniform as usual.

The children are expected to remain at school after lunch playtime.

If you have any questions, please speak with a Kindergarten teacher.

Hope to see you then!

The Kindergarten Team



Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL

Bishop of Parramatta

Level 2, 12 Victoria Rd, Parramatta NSW 2150

PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750

☎ 02 8838 3400 📠 02 9630 4813

✉ bishop@parracatholic.org

🌐 parracatholic.org

7 August 2019

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

We believe that all human beings are made in the image of God and that all human beings matter.

The Church maintains the vigorous defence of the dignity of the human person. This includes the protection of life from conception to natural death.

I have been closely following this abortion debate as it has unfolded in our parliament and across the public sphere. I join my voice with my brother bishops and many people of goodwill across many faiths who are alarmed at the newly-proposed NSW abortion legislation.

It is not enough to argue that this legislation is simply about “decriminalising abortion.” What’s at stake is far more complex and goes to the heart of a healthy society. As human beings, we all have a responsibility to care for each other.

Pope Francis reminds us bluntly: “It is not right to kill a human being, regardless of how small it is, to solve a problem.”

Whilst we affirm the sacredness of all life, the Church as a community of faith, hope and love stands by pregnant women to offer them support. That is why, closely linked to protection of the unborn is the ongoing care of women who are pregnant, especially those in difficult personal circumstances.

Our legislators and community need to provide more practical care and compassion to women facing these decisions.

In our diocese, our CatholicCare services offers a comprehensive pregnancy-related service for women and families that are expecting a baby. We want to help women in these complex situations.

Being born into this wondrous planet of ours is a blessing. May each of us, given this precious gift, never forget to pray with the Psalmist: *“You created my inmost self, knit me together in my mother’s womb. For so many marvels I thank you; a wonder am I, and all your works are wonders.”* Psalms 139.

This is an ongoing critical issue where the Church will continue to speak prophetically.

Yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv
Bishop of Parramatta



catholic out of school hours care

CHRISTMAS 2019 AND JANUARY 2020: 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 2020, a calendar of Closure Dates and Operational Dates has been issued to all families enrolled with COSHC.

COSHC WILL BE CLOSED ON:

- Thursday, 19 December 2019 and Friday, 20 December, 2019. COSHC staff will be participating in professional development in line with teachers and school staff.
- All COSHC and CELC services will close from 23 December, 2019 to 5 January 2020. COSHC will not be operating during these days.
- COSHC will be closed on Australia Day, 27 January, 2019.
- COSHC will be closed on Tuesday, 28 January 2020 for professional development of staff.

FAMILIES, PLEASE NOTE:

1. Christmas Closure

The last day of operation of COSHC services will be Wednesday, 18 December 2019.

2. 2019 January Vacation Care

The COSHC Summer Vacation Care Program commences on Monday, 6 January, 2020 to 24 January 2020.

3. 2019 Commencement of COSHC operations for Before- and After-School programs

COSHC will re-open on Wednesday, 29 January, 2020.