



Good Shepherd Primary School Newsletter

Ash Wednesday

Term 1

Week 5

Tuesday, 25th February, 2020



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 1 concludes:
Thursday, 9th April

Term 2 commences:
Monday, 27th April

Term 2 concludes:
Friday, 3rd July

Dear Parents,

This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, our foreheads will be marked with ashes in the shape of a cross to remind us that life passes away on earth:

"Remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return. Prepare and follow me!"
The ashes are made from the blessed palms left over from the Palm Sunday celebration of the previous year. These ashes are "christened" with holy water and are scented by exposure to incense. Whilst the ashes symbolise penance and contrition, they are also a reminder that God is gracious and understanding to those who are of goodwill:

"For generous and merciful is He, slow to anger, rich in kindness." Prophet, Joel. 2:12.

Ash Wednesday is the start of the Season of Lent and it is a time for us to focus intentionally on what helps or hinders our commitment to Christ. It may be better not to give up something but to take on something, to build up our spiritual reserves.

This year we will be supporting Father Luan's mission in East Timor. Father Luan recently spoke to the children at assembly and explained how important every donation was to the community he cares for. The children listened attentively while Father told them that the children from the school there walked an hour to get to school!

"God, our Father, we ask that You accept us as we are, vulnerable, flawed and in need of Your love. May Your Spirit be powerful within us so that joy, love and peace may be expressed through the actions of our lives."

Patricia Carr

Tricia Carr
Principal

Open Day at our School

Sunday 1st March

10.00 am—1.00 pm



Sports Update

On Thursday, 13th February, 14 Good Shepherd students swam at the Blacktown Zone Swimming Carnival at Mount Druitt Pool. All students did their very best.

Congratulations to Reuben Frias from Year 6 who qualified to swim at the Diocesan Carnival at Blacktown Pool last Thursday.

Reuben swam the 50 metre backstroke and was happy with his performance. Well done Reuben and all the students that represented Good Shepherd.



Winter Uniform for Terms 2 & 3

Dear Parents, please note the following uniform requirements for Terms 2 & 3.

School Uniform

Girls:

School Uniform Checked Tunic
White Long Sleeve Blouse
Checked Scissor Tie
Green Hair Ribbons
Grey Tights or Grey Socks
Black School Shoes
Green Zip-Up Jacket
School Uniform Hat

School Uniform

Boys:

Black Long Pants
White Long Sleeve Shirt
Green Zip-Up Jacket
Black Socks
Black School Shoes
School Checked Tie
School Uniform Hat



Sports Uniform

Girls:

White Polo Shirt with School Emblem
Bottle Green Shorts
Bottle Green Tracksuit Uniform
Predominantly White Joggers/Sneakers
A White Skivvy (colder weather)
White Socks
School Uniform Hat

Sports Uniform

Boys:

White Polo Shirt with School Emblem
Bottle Green Shorts
Bottle Green Tracksuit Uniform
Predominantly White Joggers/Sneakers
A White Skivvy (colder weather)
White Socks
School Uniform Hat

In cooler weather, a bottle green uniform tracksuit is worn, and a white skivvy may be worn over the white polo shirt.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, 26th February:	Ash Wednesday (9.00 am Mass Good Shepherd Church. Years 3—6 attending).
Friday, 28th February:	Staff Development Day (Pupil Free Day)
Sunday, 1st March:	Catholic School Week commences, starting with Bookfair (Good Shepherd School)
Sunday, 1st March:	Open Day at our School (10.00 am—1.00 pm)
Wednesday, 4th March:	Catholic School Week's activities. Please see Page 4 of this newsletter.
Tuesday, 10th March:	Reconciliation—Year 6 attending (11.00 am Good Shepherd Church)
Thursday, 12th March:	Year 2 Excursion to Hambleton Cottage Excursion
Thursday, 19th March:	Kindergarten Grade Assembly (2.00 pm Good Shepherd School. All welcome)
Friday, 20th March:	Year 6 Excursion to Canberra National Day Against Bullying

Communication between Parents and Staff for 2020

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 Grade Leader.

2020 Year Grade Leader are as follows:

Kinder: Mrs Yvonne Davies
Year 1: Mrs Trish Conner
Year 2: Mr Paul Battikha
Year 3: Mrs Joan Bellenger
Year 4: Mrs Beulah Frankson
Year 5: Ms Elizabeth Le Breton
Year 6: Mr Ian Byrne

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

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.** Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Religion Education News

Matthew's Gospel is the first book of the New Testament. Tradition has it that he is the tax collector called to be an apostle by Jesus.

The Gospel begins with Jesus' ancestry which in effect is a history of Israel itself therefore linking the New Testament with the Old Testament.

The Gospel is written for the Christian/Jewish community.



2020 Term Dates

Term 1 concludes:	Thursday, 9th April
Term 2 commences:	Monday, 27th April
Term 2 concludes:	Friday, 3rd July
Term 3 commences:	Monday, 20th July
Term 3 concludes:	Thursday, 24th September
Term 4 commences:	Monday, 12th October
Term 4 concludes:	Wednesday, 16th December

2020 Staff Development Days (Pupil Free Days)

Term 1:	this coming Friday, 28th February
Term 2:	Friday, 5th June
Term 3:	Friday, 25th September
Term 4:	Thursday, 17th December and Friday, 18th December

Staff Development Day—Term 1 2020

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 Term 1's will take place this **Friday, 28th February (Week 5)**. Our thanks to parents for organising care for their children on these days.

IMPORTANT

Catholic Schools Week Activities at Good Shepherd Primary School

Wednesday, 4th March

9.00—9.30 am:	Liturgy in the Good Shepherd Church
9.30—10.30 am:	Open Classrooms
10.30 am—11.00 am	Please bring your own picnic morning tea.

Change to the weekly Parent Newsletter

With the growth in technology and our use of the Skoolbag app for instant information, there is less need for a weekly newsletter.

The newsletter will be produced fortnightly and an information sheet sent on the alternate week. Paper copies will be available from the office at your request.

Thank you for your support.

Collecting your child

To ensure the safety of all students, students are **not** to be collected from the Bus Bay area. Parents who wish to pick up their child/children need to collect them from the COLA and then accompany them out of school. Students who do not have a Walker's Pass are not permitted to walk out of the school gates unless an adult or carer accompanies them. Your cooperation in this matter is greatly appreciated. Thank you.



Updated Action Management Plans for Medical Issues

If your child is taking regular medication including Asthma or is Anaphylactic or allergic, please note at the beginning of each year **we require updated information and Action/management plans for these medical issues.**

As part of keeping our children safe, it is vital that we maintain the most current information. Please take the time to update this information as soon as possible.

Pastoral Care & Student Management Policy and the Countering Discrimination, Harassment & Bullying—Policy

Dear Parents & Carers, for information on the above policies, and other policies, 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.

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.

Student Absences

Dear Parents,
Just a quick reminder that **ALL student absences need to be explained. This is a legal requirement.**

Unexplained Attendance letters

Your child may bring home a letter asking for an explanation for your child's absence from school. **Would you please complete and return back to your child's teacher promptly.**

Children Absent from School due to illness

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.** We need to receive this note within seven days of the last day of absence. Prolonged absences from school due to illness should be supported by a medical certificate.



School Fees

Fee statements for the first instalment of school fees for 2020 have now been mailed to you.

The due date for payment is on or before **Wednesday 18th March 2020.**

The Catholic Education Office Flexible Payment Plan will again be offered as a convenient option for the payment of 2020 fees. All necessary information required to take part in the plan will be included with the Instalment 1 fee statement.

Please note: if you wish to be included in the Flexible Payment Plan option, **all paperwork needs to be returned to Catholic Education Office Parramatta by 6th March 2020 in the Reply Paid Envelope or post to:**

Catholic Education Office (Billing & Receipting)
Locked Bag 4
North Parramatta NSW 1750

Please contact the school office if you do not receive your school fee statement.



Visa Updates

If there has been any change to your Visa Status, could you please send in a copy to the school office. It is important that we have the most up-to-date information for our school records.

Information regarding Leave from School

Leave from school for holiday/overseas trips in school time is not encouraged and must be explained in writing to the School Principal.

A leave form ("Application for Extended Leave") must be completed at least 4 weeks in advance for **5 or more school days**. If leave is **10 days or more**, an interview with the Principal is also required, together with an Application for Extended Leave form. Leave forms can be obtained from the School Office.

Leave of **4 days and less** needs to also be approved by the Principal. **Please write a letter to your child's class teacher outlining the details of the leave, including the first and last school day that the child will be absent.**

Leave during school terms is strongly discouraged.

Misplaced School Hats

Dear Parents, please have a discussion with your child about the importance of taking care of their school belongings, especially their school hat. Write your child's name clearly inside the hat and if you accidentally pick up someone's else hat, please return it to the office. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Spare Clothes Reminder

A kindly reminder to all parents, please pack a spare change of underwear, socks and shorts inside your child's bag. As there has been a few little accidents over the past few weeks, we have no more spare clothing to change them into. If you do not provide a spare change of clothes, you will be notified and asked to bring these to the school. Thank you.

Also, if your child suffers from regular nose bleeds, please pack a spare uniform in their bag. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Watch out, Chicken Pox is about!

Dear Parents, there has been a diagnosed case of chicken pox at school. Please refer to the attached fact sheet on symptoms & signs of chicken pox.



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.



Uploading of Photos onto YouTube and Social Media

Parents, please note there is to be no uploading of pictures of students that are not your own child, onto YouTube and Social Media eg Facebook, Instagram etc. from events at school without prior permission from the School Principal. Such events include school functions, excursions, liturgies etc.



Kindergarten 2021 Enrolments

Enrolment Application forms for Kindergarten 2021 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 2021.



Free "Alerts" and more to your mobile phone

Did you know that you can receive "Alerts" to your mobile phone for free? This is very handy to have and will keep you updated on "last minute" changes or reminders to school events. The App is called "Skoolbag" and to install this free App on your iPhone or Android phone, this is what you do:

Simply search for Good Shepherd School Plumpton in the App Store on your phone, PC or Mac and install. **After the App is installed on your phone, make sure that you select "OK" to allow Alert notifications. Also click on "more" then "Setup" and select which categories you would like to receive Alerts for.**

For those that have Android phones, simply search our school "Good Shepherd School Plumpton" and install. **After the app is installed click on "more" then "Setup" and select which categories you would like receive Alerts for.**



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	Jade Hoang	KG	Lila Raza
KR	Nicole Aquino		
1B	Eden ChongNee	1G	Mikayla Shaw
1R	Layla David	1W	Elias Alhamwi
2B	Vanessa Bradley	2G	Xavier Batallones
2R	Aarav Ahwan	2W	Buikem Ugochukwa
3B	Tiana Vaifale	3G	Taiuli-Rose Bennell
3R	Kevin Wilbert J	3W	Winston Milag
4B	Kot Job	4G	Seraphina Vaasili
4R	Ite Tonga	4W	Brianna Saxelby
5B	Maya Portugal	5G	Not Published
5R	Amou Majok	5W	Gabriel Manalo
6B	Ashleigh Galletes	6G	Not Published
6R	Riane Salentes	6W	Ilyana Toma

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.

After School Supervision

Just a reminder that school finishes at 2:50 pm. Please ensure that your children have been collected **before 3:15 pm each afternoon**.

There are many children who have not been collected before 3:15 pm which creates issues with supervision & safety for the children. If you are late collecting your children from school it impacts on the children, the staff and the running of the school. Please ensure that you have made suitable arrangements to have your children collected by 3:15 pm.

If there is an emergency and you are running late to collect the children, please telephone the school office on (02) 9836 7100. Thank you.

Visitors to our School

Any visitors to our school are required to enter via the Office to sign in electronically. Upon your exit, please ensure you sign out. **This requirement also stands for visits to the Uniform Shop, Canteen or to the Music Room inside the School premises.** This is a requirement for the continuing safety of all in our community, and complies with child safety and WHS requirements.

Label Uniforms

Please label your child's uniform **especially** their **hats, drink bottles, school bags, jumpers** as many items are ending up in lost property! 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 uniform, you are spending money unnecessarily when you need to replace these items.

Building Child Safe Communities - Forms for all Volunteers and Contractors

Dear Parents & Carers, just a reminder that all Volunteers and Contractors to our school need to have completed an online form. Tutors and coaches providing private services to children will also need to apply for a Working with Children Check. The tutor or coach should provide their name, date of birth and WWCC number of parent/carers for online verification. If you have any queries, please contact the School Office on Ph. 9836 7100.

<http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/volunteers>

Carpark Safety

Dear Parents, just a friendly reminder to be vigilant when driving, parking and walking your children through the school gates. There are a lot of students and families around at both commencement and dismissal times and care needs to be taken for everyone's safety. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.



Attendance

How you can help your child become the best they can!

Attendance matters—especially for children in Kindergarten. Studies show children who miss too many days in Kindergarten and Year One can struggle academically in later years, particularly if they miss 10% of school days. This can be just two days a month and can build up before you know it.

Poor attendance can influence whether children read proficiently by Year Three.

How you can help—

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine
- Plan vacations during term break
- Schedule your child's medical and dental appointments after school
- Make sure they come to school every day unless they are truly unwell
- Have a backup plan for getting your child/children to school
- Car pool
- Make sure your child arrives at school by 8.25 am, ready to join class lines when the bell goes at 8.30 am. Please note: supervision of students begins at 8.10 am every day!



**St Clare's
Catholic High School**

We seek to support all families by offering a Catholic education for students from Year 7 to Year 12.

**ENROLLING NOW
YEAR 7 TO YEAR 12**

**OPEN DAY
4 March 3:00pm - 5:00pm**

We welcome you to this vibrant school community where we aim for each of our students to be known, understood, valued and learning.

Our mission as a Catholic community is to meet the needs of all our students, no matter what their background, talents, disabilities or economic circumstance.

Make an appointment to tour the school. Speak with our Principal, Kevin Jones, about how we can help you join the St Clare's Catholic High School community.

Contact us on 9830 2400 today!

St Clare's Catholic High School
175 Buckwell Drive Hassall Grove 2761 p: 9830 2400
www.clarehassallgrove.catholic.edu.au 

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

Parents Representative Council

Diocese of Parramatta

Partners in Learning & Faith



Parent's Representative Council School Representative

Role of the PRC School Rep

The Parents Representative Council (PRC) is the peak parent body that represents and supports parents, families and caregivers of students enrolled in all Primary and Secondary Catholic Schools within our Diocese.

The PRC works in collaboration with the Bishop, the Executive Director of schools, Parish Priests and Catholic School Principals and School Parent Bodies in providing additional support to families throughout their child's learning journey within the Catholic Education System.

Every Primary and Secondary Catholic School in the Diocese of Parramatta can have one PRC Parent Rep and an Alternate Parent represented. These Representatives speak on behalf of their School's Parent Body and community representing their Parents within the PRC. This provides the important two-way communication between local school parent communities, their local school and the greater Diocesan Parent body of the PRC.

The PRC School Representative are encouraged to:

- When available attend the PRC General Meetings held once a Term. PRC meetings are held in each Term on Monday Week 6 of the School Term. These meetings consist of Executive Committee Members reports by the President, Treasurer, Secretary and the Council of Catholic School Representative. Guest speakers with relevant up to date educational issues are provided. These speakers will range from a keynote presentation of a Professional Academic, Educational Leader, Psychologist and/or an Educational Leader within the Catholic Education Office Parramatta.
- Liaise with their school community about the work of the PRC – report back to their parent bodies on the Term meetings, content, speakers and issues that were raised
- Liaise with their Cluster leader and attend Cluster Meetings. Cluster meetings/gatherings are held within the PRC Term Meeting. These meetings are led by a Parent Cluster Leader. School Reps have the opportunity to network with other parent reps within the geographical area of their own school. Hear about the work of other parent bodies and parents in your area.
- Disseminate information to their school about upcoming meetings, speakers etc. and encourage other parents to attend with them. Information should be disseminated through their school's parent meetings, newsletter, website and social media site etc.
- Provide feedback to the PRC on type of presenters, topics and relevant educational and parenting issues that they or their school may want to hear about.
- Nominate yourself to become further involved in parent leadership and collaboration by becoming a member of the Executive Committee of the PRC.



Parents Representative Council

SUPPORT | CELEBRATE | EDUCATE



Choices

Week 1

**Ash Wednesday February 26
to Sunday March 1**

2020 CEDP LENTEN REFLECTIONS

Gather

“Be still and know that I am God!” Psalm 46:10

Lord Your words lead me to a calmness and greatness of Your presence.

As we begin the Season of Lent, allow me to open my heart to the potential of knowing You better.

My choices can sometimes be predicable, caught on illusions of fulfillment.
I ask You to walk with me as I seek signs of Your ongoing creation within me.
Amen

Listen

Gospel – Matthew 4:1-11

At that time Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the force of darkness.² He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.

³ The tempter approached and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become loaves of bread.”⁴ Jesus said in reply, “It is written: *One does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.*”



⁵ Then Jesus was taken to the holy city and made to stand on the parapet of the temple.⁶ The evil one said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down. For it is written: *God will command the angels concerning you and with their hands they will support you, lest you dash your foot against a stone.*”

‘The Temptation in the Wilderness’ by Briton Riviere

⁷ Jesus answered him, “Again it is written,
You shall not put the Lord, your God, to the test.”

⁸ Then the evil one took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence,⁹ and he said to him, “All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me.”

¹⁰ At this, Jesus said to him, “Get away, Satan! It is written: *The Lord, your God, shall you worship, and God alone shall you serve.*”¹¹

Then the evil one left him and, behold, angels came and ministered to him.

Reflect

Why did Jesus go into the desert, the wilderness?

Why did Jesus choose solitude?

During his Baptism in the river Jordan, Jesus had just experienced a deep sense of being called to mission. In this call there was new sense of awakening. He was **CURIOS** about the deeper meaning of these words,



Site of Jesus's Baptism- Galilee

“You are my son, the one in whom I am delighted.”

Jesus sought **CLARITY** around what it meant to be the beloved of God. His journey into the desert, into silence and solitude, increased his capacity to listen deeply “to listen with ear of his heart.”

The journey of Jesus from **CURIOSITY** to **CLARITY** brought him face to face with his demons aiming to obscure his vision and deter his path to clarity. Jesus struggled with these forces of darkness and resisted the temptation to grasp hold of transient power offering only a false sense of **CLARITY**.

Respond

Can you remember a time or times in your life when you sensed the temptation to be distracted from your life goals and/ or commitment?

Recall a time or an event in your life when you have moved from curiosity, even confusion to clarity, because you took some “time out”, gifted yourself with some solitude and remain committed to your core life choices.

Concluding Prayer

Glory to God source of all being, eternal Word, Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be. Amen

From Curiosity to Clarity – From Curiosity to Clarity – From Curiosity to Clarity