

Dear Parents and Friends of Our Lady of the Rosary Primary School

Mary Help of Christians 25 May

The traditional image of Mary Help of Christians has frequently been adapted to emphasise her patronal link with Australia. As has become customary, the map of Australia is introduced at Mary's feet and the Southern Cross shines in the night sky behind her. The colours have been chosen partly to echo the Australian Green and Gold, and partly to use the image of the Australian sun. The significance of Mary as Queen of Heaven is adequately expressed in the crown she wears.



History tells that early in the 19th century, Napoleon occupied Rome, annexed the Papal States and imprisoned Pope Pius VII. In thanksgiving for the pope's release and restoration in Rome on 24 May 1814, the feast of Mary Help of Christians was introduced to the Roman calendar on that day.

Fr Therry was ordained in Ireland in 1815 at a time when the Irish Church was quickly adopting devotions to Mary Help of Christians. The choice of Mary Help of Christians as Australia's Patron Saint may well derive from the first Catholic chaplain in Sydney, Fr. Therry, who dedicated his church to St Mary in November 1821.

Our celebration of Mary Help of Christians as our patronal feast therefore symbolises the Roman and Irish heritage which is the foundation of the Catholic Church in Australia.

Mary Help of Christians was adopted as patron of the new Church of Australia at a significant time in our history. British settlement was just over fifty years old, the transportation of convicts was coming to an end, and the first elections in Australian history had been held in 1843. Issues of land, immigration and education had begun to surface and the Church was involved in these social problems. In 1843 Archbishop Polding inaugurated the first Catholic apostolic meeting with aboriginal people in Moreton Bay.

In 2020 we confront some of the same social problems and the Church has the same need to witness to the values of the gospel. The task of evangelising the Australian culture is more urgent and daunting than ever. Today recourse to our national patron, Mary Help of Christians, is as relevant and necessary as it ever has been.

QUEENS BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY
MONDAY JUNE 8 2020
NO STUDENTS ATTEND ON THIS DAY



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Our Lady of the Rosary Parish - Fr Brendan - 9623 1962

PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION TO OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

Father God,

*The Great South Land of the Holy Spirit
was entrusted to a people who saw your mighty hand at work
in the majestic, rugged mountains, in the rolling plains, parched earth, flowing rivers
and thundering surf.*

*May we, under the guidance of your Spirit, work at reconciliation, with all the different
peoples of this land.*

May we reverence the "Dream Time"

...and those wedded to this land;

*May we in turn respect and heal all that we have hurt;
the land, its people and wildlife.*

*We dedicate all our efforts under the patronage of Mary Help of Christians,
who always points the way to wholeness,
to harmony and to Jesus.*

We make this our prayer to you Father, through Christ Our Lord. AMEN.

Composed by Fr Kevin Walsh.

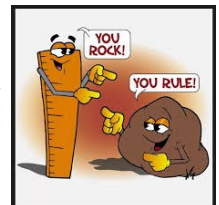
Language has Power

I would like to share two experiences, which reflects how much power there is in the language that we use with others. These experiences have made me reflect on how we use language to inspire others. Our language, both body and verbal, is an important tool that we have which can affect another person's mood, the mindset of a classroom full of students, a relationship with a friend, a child, or a colleague, and the overall culture of a school. Using positive and direct language is the key to developing strong and lasting relationships, and the key to how we feel about ourselves as individuals.



The language that we use shapes who we are, as well as the impact that we have on those around us. It takes skill, practice, and courage to think before we speak, and to ensure that what comes out of our mouths is actually going to be received in the way that we intended it. Words have the power to crush a person's spirit or to inspire them to be the best that they can be. Words can change a person's day instantly for the better or for the worse, and in many cases we don't even give our language a second thought. We often say things that have a profound impact on another person's mood or day or self-esteem and we don't even realize it.

The first experience was a compliment I received from a parent and I'm sure that he had no idea how important those words were to me at that time. I often joke and use the words of Mark Twain, "I can live for two months on a compliment," but there's certainly some truth to that. We all need a boost once in a while, and I wonder how much conscious thought we give to recognizing verbally the positive contributions that others have on our lives.



Words always cost a great deal even though they are free, and often they cost more when they're not said at all. When was the last time that you thanked another person, be it child or adult, for changing your day for the better? How often do you purposefully go out of your way to compliment, or to use positive language with everyone? Do you ever think about the body language that you're using when you have your many interactions with people each day? Our language is the most powerful thing that we have, but I don't think we take advantage of the power that it has as much as we should.

The second experience occurred when a child behaved in an unsafe manner, like we all do at times, and I was very clear in my comments. My direct words had a profound impact on him and I believe that he realised that I sincerely care for the safety and wellbeing of our community. Our learning agreement, Safe Respectful Learners, clearly articulates and conveys a clear understanding of our high expectations as a school, and the importance of lifelong learning.

I'm asking you this week to think about the language that you use, and how you use it. Does your language inspire...are you saying what you need to say in a positive way...are you giving the compliments to the people who positively impact you as a person...and are you using your language to develop strong and lasting relationships? Language has power, and it's time that we all consciously thought about that...and acted on it. Have a wonderful week everyone and remember to be great and good to each other.



Attendance Family Liaison Officer (AFLO)

I'm pleased to inform the OLR community that Catholic Education has allocated support for families through the provision of an Attendance Family Liaison Officer. It is with this support that we were able to offer Ms Sattler an extra day to



- support parents of students who have patterns of emerging absenteeism
- enhance existing school based attendance processes
- support schools to identify and support students with patterns of attendance that places them at risk of absenteeism

In her role Ms Sattler will

- Identify students with patterns of absenteeism
- Initiate follow up and parent contact/communication regarding attendance
- Develop strategies to enhance the home-school link
- Generate correspondence that supports contact with parents
- Communicate identified needs of students with relevant staff

If your child has issues with school attendance and is anxious about attending school, please contact me through the school office to seek the support of Ms Sattler in her role as Attendance Family Liaison Officer.

Thought for the Week

*“What an astonishing thing a book is.
It's a flat object made from a tree with flexible parts
on which are imprinted lots of funny dark squiggles.
But one glance at it and you're inside the mind of another person,
maybe somebody dead for thousands of years.
Across the millennia, an author is speaking clearly and
silently inside your head, directly to you.
Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions,
binding together people who never knew each other, citizens of distant epochs.
Books break the shackles of time.
A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic.”
Carl Sagan*

Have a Blessed Week
Michael Siciliano
PRINCIPAL





From the Assistant Principal's desk...

Welcome to my desk. In each Newsletter I will provide general information, ideas and tips for parents in all key Learning Areas. If you have a particular question or query or anything you would like more information about, please let me know.

TECHNOLOGY at Home

Throughout the past few months your children have been accessing far more technology at home than they have ever done before. Therefore, it is timely for parents to consider how much is too much time spent online by children. There isn't necessarily a magic figure, but the quality and nature of what they are doing online, and your involvement, is important. Consider your child's screen use in the context of their overall health and wellbeing – is it impacting on their face-to-face connections with family and friends or is it getting in the way of their sleep and exercise? The answers to these questions may guide you to help strike the right balance of online and offline activities for your child.

Here is some important information for parents specific to Primary - aged children.

Children 5-12

As children start to navigate the online world and interact with others more independently, they are more likely to be exposed to risks of bullying or unwanted contact, accidentally coming across inappropriate content or racking up bills through in-app purchases.

Your guidance can help them be aware of the risks and understand what is expected of them. And let them know you are always there to support them.

For children aged 5 to 12, it is important to...

- **Keep the computer or device in an area of your home that can be supervised.** Check in regularly to see what they are viewing.
- **Stay engaged with their online activity.** Consider setting up your own accounts with the sites they use most so you can see how they work and understand the risks.
- **Explore the online world with them** to help establish that this is not just a solitary activity. Play games, do a creative project together etc..
- **Think about social media readiness.** Most social media sites require users to be at least 13 years of age before they can register, although some sites are created especially for children under 13. [Are they old enough?](#)
- **Encourage respect and empathy.** Teach them to avoid sharing or posting things that may upset others. See [Good habits start young](#).
- **Start building resilience.** Teach your child that there are ways they can deal with material that worries or frightens them. This includes immediately telling you or another trusted adult of any concerns or uncomfortable material. See [Good habits start young](#)
- **Encourage them to learn about online safety** by exploring the [Kids section](#) of this site.

Technology tips for parents of kids 5 to 12

- **Ensure your own devices are protected by a password or pin**, so your child cannot accidentally come across inappropriate content.
- If you are thinking about giving them their own tablet or smartphone, check out 'are they old enough?'
- **Use parental control tools** appropriate for the age and experience of your child. Be upfront about this and get your child on board. Let them know that these can be reviewed and changed as they get older and they continue to demonstrate responsible behaviour. Consider installing a 'child-friendly' search engine that will allow them to explore a limited number of sites. See [Taming the technology](#)

Check out Raising Children Network's [Screen Time](#) and quality media choices: 6-11 years.

Skills and advice

Tips for managing online challenges.



The NSW Government's website has many strategies and resources for parents, teachers and children to keep children safe in the online world. There is information on gaming and social media to ensure you have the safest privacy setting to protect your child. You can look up specific ones...e.g Fortnite, TikTok etc...Take the time to visit their website to explore the information further.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION @ Our Lady of the Rosary

From the page of the Religious Education Coordinator - Mrs Colleen Fuller

WE CELEBRATE 140 years of Catholic Education at Our Lady of the Rosary.
At the same time we thank God for 200 years of Catholic Education within Australia.

SCHOOL FORMATION GOAL - 2020 *to form, to inform, to transform*
All students to be self-reflective disciples of Jesus, through deep learning from Matthew's Gospel.

PARISH MASS ATTENDANCE: *In this time of Covid 19 we are all committed to practising social isolation.*

For this reason, opportunities to attend Mass are being provided online for your convenience. From Monday this week 50 parishioners are invited to attend Mass. You simply need to book your attendance through the Parish Office: 9623 1962. Please check the Our Lady of the Rosary Parish website to discover all possibilities that are available for Prayer and Worship within the Parish.



Blessings to you and your family at this time of challenge and opportunity as you focus on your family members, through your love of God and love of your neighbour. Let's continue with active participation in prayer for the Common Good. We are all connected in this one Earth.



PENTECOST Sunday-last Sunday 31st May, 2020.

On Sunday we celebrated the Feast of Pentecost which is always celebrated 10 days after the Ascension and 50 (pente) days after the Resurrection.

This is considered the birthday of the church, the people of God. This is when the apostles received the Holy Spirit-the paraclete, the Helper. Until this time the apostles were frightened and they huddled together in the Upper Room (the cenacle). They were scared to share the Good News of Jesus because

they thought they may also be killed. However, when Jesus returned to God the Father in heaven he promised that he would not leave the believers as orphans. He promised to send a helper, a guide who would be with them always. This helper is God the Holy Spirit who is with us always. We just need to pray and invite the Holy Spirit to guide and lead us on the right path.

The love of God has been poured into our hearts

through the Spirit of God dwelling within us, alleluia. [Romans 5: 5; cf. 8:11](#)

I include the Readings from Pentecost Sunday as a point of Reflection for you and the family as you walk this week as followers of Jesus.

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians 1 Cor 12:3-7, 12-13

In the one Spirit we were all baptised, making one body.

No one can say, 'Jesus is Lord' unless he is under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

There is a variety of gifts but always the same Spirit; there are all sorts of service to be done, but always to the same Lord; working in all sorts of different ways in different people, it is the same God who is working in all of them. **The particular way in which the Spirit is given to each person is for a good purpose.**

Just as a human body, though it is made up of many parts, is a single unit because all these parts, though many, make one body, so it is with Christ. In the one Spirit we were all baptised, Jews as well as Greeks, slaves as well as citizens, and one Spirit was given to us all to drink.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!

**Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful
and kindle in them the fire of your love.**

Alleluia!

Gospel Jn 20:19-23

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

As the Father sent me, so I send you: Receive the Holy Spirit.

In the evening of the first day of the week, the doors were closed in the room where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews. Jesus came and stood among them. He said to them, 'Peace be with you', and showed them his hands and his side. The disciples were filled with joy when they saw the Lord, and he said to them again, 'Peace be with you.'

'As the Father sent me, so am I sending you.'

After saying this he breathed on them and said:

'Receive the Holy Spirit.'

Let's pray together: May God bless you in all that is before you this week.

Pentecost People

Come, Holy Spirit, and make us Pentecost people.

*Let your wisdom and right judgment guide our decisions
and temper our impulses.*

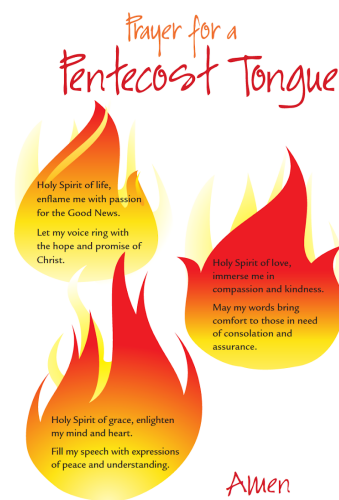
*Let knowledge and understanding increase our capacity for
empathy and compassion.*

*Let reverence and awe fill us with gratitude and respect for
all of creation.*

*Give us the courage to witness boldly to our faith in word
and deed.*

Through and with and in Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.



CELEBRATING CHILDREN'S BIRTHDAYS

Due to the current situation we are sorry but we won't be able to accept birthday cakes or lolly bags to hand out to celebrate children's birthdays. Their birthdays will certainly still be acknowledged in class. We will advise you when we can start accepting cakes again.



CLOTHING POOL

Just a reminder that our clothing pool is open Tuesday mornings only from 9:00am till 10:00am. This service is run by a volunteer parent so it would be appreciated if you could leave the cupboards clean and tidy for the next person.



We are also in need of any second hand clothing you may have at home that you could donate to the clothing pool as Lowes will not be receiving any uniform stock for another week or two.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday to the following children who have celebrated their birthday in the last 2 weeks.

Christian Berrier; Faith Atonio; Everly Morrison; Josalynn Tooala; Dianna Kelei; Garang Kuol; Tanisha Sharma; Sabine Moises; Jennifer Ebsworth; Nyanwut Reec; Abur Ujuangí; Jaylon Chandrapala; Emmanuel Danao; Amelia El-Khatib; Matilda Horne; Kapish Panchal;



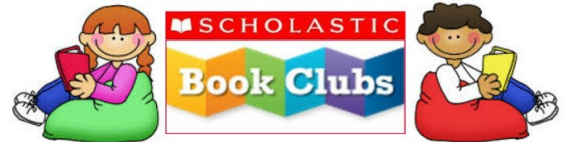
LOST & FOUND

We have had a set of keys handed in to the school office. They look like house keys. If anybody has lost a set of keys can they please speak to the office.



BOOK CLUB

Book Club brochures will be coming home this week. Orders are due back at school by Friday 19th June 2020.



It would be appreciated if orders could be ordered and paid for online. Just write your payment reference number on the order form and send to school.

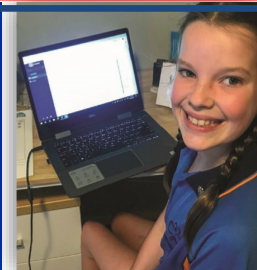
ABSENCE NOTES

If your child is going to be away from school because they are sick. There are various ways you can advise us:

- phone the school office and let us know
- Submit an absence note via skoolbag (whole day absences only)
- Send in a note when your child returns to school



It is a legal requirement that we are aware of why your child is not at school.



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