

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

## *Happy Mothers' Day: May 9, 2021*

Many gardening programs on TV, radio programs and gardening gurus inform us of the benefits of slow-release fertilizers. Here's a description of how they work: "Slow-release fertilizers work in conjunction with the processes in the soil. Rather than a quick overdose, these products release nutrients over a period of time, even for several months. This means that the nutrients supply plant roots with a sustainable diet instead of a binge buffet. The plants benefit from a consistent supply of the elements they need throughout their growth." Ella MacKenna.



Within the context of "Happy Mothers' Day", the slow-release nutrients that flow from a mother to her family would be rich in love and care. A consistent supply of love and care, packaged in the visible form of cooking, cleaning, planting flowers, buying clothes then washing and ironing them, and the less visible form of encouragement, support, compassion, forgiveness, consistency, leads to lives that thrive from the benefit of a consistent supply of the elements they need throughout their growth.

Every mother, at some stage, has been a "helicopter" mother, because like a helicopter, every mother has hovered over her children whether the children needed her or not. Of course, hovering is a maternal instinct and Ann Landers gives a reminder that at some point hovering has to move onto something more developmental: "It's not what you do for your children but what you have taught them to do for themselves, that will make them successful human beings."

**MOTHER'S DAY LITURGY  
FRIDAY 7TH MAY  
PLEASE SEND YOUR PHOTOS IN**



Celebrating 140 YEARS  
1880 - 2020

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

Just as there are slow-release fertilizers for young plants, so too, are there fertilizers for the more mature ones. They might still come in the same shaped tub, but the nutrients have become more suited to the changing needs of the plant. The task of every child is to become independent and the task of all mothers is to help their children reach independence by allowing them to walk-and-fall, to make decisions that might sometimes come undone but in the process, to slowly take control of their lives.

Mothers are persons too, with their own special talents and their own special needs that need constant self-attention, as well as attention from all other family members.

“God gave mothers special gifts,  
He made them all unique.  
But one thing that all mothers love,  
Are kisses on their cheek.” Nancy Burr.

**HAPPY MOTHERS' DAY!**  
**Mary, Mother of God,**  
**and spiritual Mother of us all,**  
**May all mothers who seek your help,**  
**experience your unfailing protection.**  
**Lead all mothers and their children**  
**to Your Son, Jesus.**  
**Amen.**

# THE ELEPHANT ROPE

A tourist was amazed to see in Thailand that a group of beautiful elephants was being held by only a small rope tied to their front leg. There were no chains, no cages, just a short rope tethering each huge creature to a small stick in the ground.

It was obvious that the elephants could, at any time, break away from the rope but for some reason, they did not.

The tourist asked the trainer why the elephants just stood there and made no attempt to get away.

“It’s simple,” trainer said, “when they are very young and much smaller we use the same size rope to tie them and, at that age, it’s enough to hold them. They try and try to get free but cannot. As they grow up, they are conditioned to believe they cannot break away. They believe the rope can still hold them, so they never try to escape.”

The tourist was astonished. These enormous animals could at any time break free but because they believed they couldn’t, they were stuck right where they were.

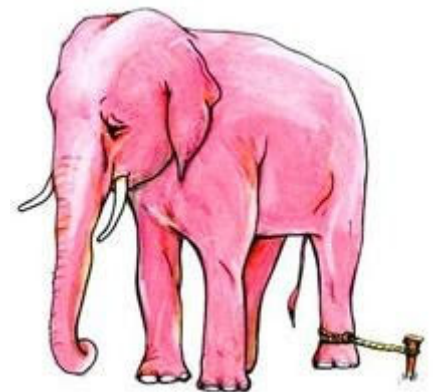
How many of us, like the elephants, go through life believing that we cannot do something, simply because of something that we thought we learned when we were young?

How many of us have in our minds a short rope we could easily shake off?

How many of us are capable of far more than we ever dream of?

Don’t be held back. Don’t be tethered in one place.

Believe in yourself. You may be surprised by how far you can go!



# Safe Respectful Learners

“Kids have no respect for anything these days.”

This appears to be an expression from some adults but it is  
**NOT TRUE.**

The notion of respect continues to be the basis of civil behaviour. Those children and young people who act respectfully toward others have a huge advantage over their peers in terms of social acceptance and cooperative work skills.



Showing respect means that a child protects the basic human rights of others to safety and fair treatment. The most basic way to show respect for others is by the use of good manners. In fact, manners are ‘respect in action’.

The use of good manners is the most important social skill that adults can teach children. Manners help children navigate effectively through their social world and also help them influence others. Good manners begins with the use of ‘please’, ‘thank you’ and calling people by name. It extends to an array of social conventions, including: how to eat in public, how to win and lose gracefully and how to answer a telephone call.

Sometimes adults need to insist that children treat us in respectful ways. That means that we don’t respond to disrespectful treatment. So if a child yells at his mother to get some food a wise parent would remind that child that cooperation only comes with respectful treatment. We need to teach children that treating others inappropriately is not the way to get their needs met.

Respect also needs to extend to the treatment of the environment. It is reasonable to expect children to treat their home, their neighbourhood, their school and the natural environment in ways that ensures that they are protected and preserved.

Self-respect is also important for children. When they treat themselves respectfully they tend to be more careful about how they allow others to behave towards them as well as being mindful of how they treat their minds and bodies. Respect when shown for others, self and the environment is the basic value for all successful interactions in a civil society. It is definitely a value that parents should preach and live by.

## 2022 Kinder Enrolments

Enrolments are currently open for Kindergarten 2022. Please contact the school by phone or in person to collect an enrolment form. Alternatively, you can download an enrolment form via our school website. Please return the enrolment forms ASAP so that an interview can be organised with Mrs Regan and Myself.



## Thought for the Week

*“What if we stopped aspiring to have more,  
and instead aspired to be more?”*

*-Archbishop Oscar Romero*

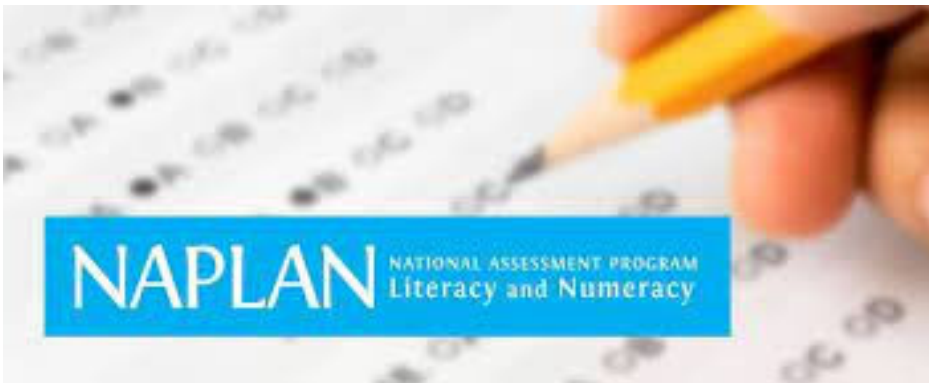


Have a Blessed Week  
Michael Siciliano  
PRINCIPAL



## *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.*



At Our Lady of the Rosary, we focus upon understanding assessment as an opportunity for students to show what they **CAN** do. When we think about assessment in this way, it is about celebrating growth and identifying next steps for learning.

This week, I'd like to frame the upcoming NAPLAN tests as another opportunity to celebrate learning growth – and provide some information about the 2021 online NAPLAN tests.

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) assesses literacy and numeracy skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life. Students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 participate in the annual NAPLAN tests in reading, writing, conventions of language (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. The assessment provides parents and schools with an understanding of how individual students are performing at the time of the tests.

We moved to online NAPLAN testing in 2019. The 2020 programme did not take place due to COVID-19, and in 2021, like the majority of students across Australia, all students in Years 3 and 5 at OLR will sit *NAPLAN online*.

**NAPLAN is just one aspect of a school's assessment and reporting process – it does not replace ongoing assessments made by teachers about student performance and it is not used for formal semester reporting.**

***It is extremely important to talk positively about this experience with your child, as they do not need to feel anxious or worried. The school will provide a supportive environment where the children will complete the tests in smaller groups with many teachers on hand to help them through the process.***



One of the main benefits of NAPLAN online is its capacity to deliver tailored testing, where the test automatically adapts to an individual student's test performance by presenting questions of higher or lower complexity. This allows all students to work at their own point of challenge and allows the test to measure student achievement more precisely.

**The assessment window for 2021 NAPLAN online is between 11 and 21 May (Term 2 Weeks 4 and 5).**

Students in Years 3 will hand write their writing test on Tuesday May 11th; they will use School devices and **self supplied headphones**, in their own classrooms, to complete the other tests. Students in Year 5 will use School devices and **self supplied headphones** to complete all tests. The School will ensure all devices are set up with the software required for the testing and Specialist IT support will be available during all testing windows. The students have had Practice opportunities in classroom settings during Term 1 and into this term.

### **Our school Timetable**

Monday, 10/05/21 -	<b>FINAL PREPARATION DAY</b>
<b>Tuesday, 11/05/21 -</b>	<b>WRITING</b> - Year 3 and Year 5 - <b>9.15 a.m</b> (Year 3 writing paper test. Year 5 online.)
<b>Wednesday, 12/05/21 -</b>	<b>READING</b> - Year 3/5 online - <b>9.15 a.m</b>
<b>Thursday, 13/05/21 -</b>	<b>CONVENTIONS OF LANGUAGE</b> Year 3/5 online - <b>9.15 a.m</b>
<b>Friday, 14/05/21 -</b>	<i>Year 3 Writing Catch ups deadline.</i>
<b>Monday, 17/05/21 -</b>	<b>NUMERACY</b> Year 3/5 - <b>9.15 a.m</b>
<b>Friday, 21/05/21 -</b>	<b>FINAL DAY</b> to complete all test sessions

It is very important that students **ATTEND SCHOOL** and are **ON TIME** on these days. If a child is absent for a test, they **MUST** complete the one they missed first and then the next one. They have to be completed in the prescribed order.

The [public demonstration site](#) contains FAQs and access to some practice items to allow students to become familiar with the layout of the online tests. Parents and carers may find [this information](#) from NESA useful and can also visit the [Parent Information page](#).



**You are invited to contact the School if you have further questions about NAPLAN online in 2021.**

### **MOTHER'S DAY LITURGY**

We will be holding our Mother's Day Liturgy on Friday 7th May at 9:00am.

We would like to organize a photo slideshow to run during this and we are asking if families could send in a photo of mum and the children.

These photos can be emailed to the school email [olorst-marys@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:olorst-marys@parra.catholic.edu.au), if you can't do this, you can send in a photo to your child's class teacher. Please be aware that we might not be able to return these photos, so please send in a copy.

Photos will need to be received by Wednesday 5th May.



## WHATS HAPPENING AT SCHOOL

Tuesday 4th May ⇒ *Diocesan Cross Country*

Wednesday 5th May ⇒ *Mothers Day Stall*

⇒ *Mothers Day Liturgy - 9am*

Friday 7th May ⇒ *Mothers Day Stall (Follow-up)*

⇒ *OLR Disco*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

*Christina Thomas, Pasquina Acayo, Iknoor Sohanpal, Madison Evans, Jordana Tuliatu, Scarlett Grech, Amreen Sohanpal, Lucas Koprivanac, Mareng Agok, Yasmín Zaatini, Ayen Akon, Chase Mizzi, Gom Maout, Samuel Sebastiano, Arnav Banth, Jemma Matthews, Neon Thapa, Charlyn Bankler, Rohan Naicker, Ayaan Soni, Holly Blazevic, Kobe La Rosa, Kyra Kirpal, Castiel Ibisate, Kosta Grivas, Juliano Masaniai, Curtis Piol, Elizabeth Lykos.*



## HOT DRINKS ON SITE

Just a reminder that parents are not permitted to bring hot drinks onto the school site. This is a WHS/Child Protection



## SCHOOL PHOTOS

*Our 2021 school photos have arrived. At this stage only a few classes have distributed them as there were a couple of minor errors that need to be addressed by the company. All classes will hopefully receive their photographs in the coming weeks. If you opted to collect your photos from the office you will have to check if your child's is available for collection.*

## **OLR'S GOT TALENT**

**As part of the parish's 75th Anniversary Celebrations they are organising an OLR's Got Talent Night.**

**They are encouraging anyone to showcase their talent. They are calling on dancers, musicians, actors, comedians, magicians, cultural group performers and so on.**

**They will be having a demonstration day on July 31st for whoever is interested to participate**



**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION @ Our Lady of the Rosary, St Marys. NSW**  
*From the page of the Religious Education Coordinator - Mrs Colleen Fuller*

**2020 FORMATION GOAL:**

**All students to be self-reflective disciples of Jesus, through deep learning from Matthew's gospel.**

*In 2020-2021 we continue to celebrate 140+ years of ongoing commitment to excellence in Catholic Education; at Our Lady of the Rosary, St Marys and 200+ years of excellence in Catholic Education within Australia.*

**MASS TIMES:** *The church is open now without the earlier Covid restrictions.*

*You are invited to participate in prayer, worship and thanksgiving as an intentional faith community.*

*Saturday 5:30pm*

*Sunday: 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am or 6:00pm.*

*This Sunday 2nd May is the Fifth Sunday in the Easter Season and concludes on Pentecost Sunday.*

FIFTH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER  
YEAR B



*The sacred scripture is from John's Gospel and the Lord reminds us: **'Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.'***

*Once again we are reminded in scripture that 'true human flourishing' comes through living the Word of God - learning from the life of Jesus.*

*Gospel [Jn 15:1-8](#)*

*A reading from the holy Gospel according to John*

***All who live in me, and I in them, bear much fruit.***

*Jesus said to his disciples:*

*'I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.*

*Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes to make it bear even more.*

*You are pruned already, by means of the word that I have spoken to you.*

***Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.***

*As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself, but must remain part of the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.*

*I am the vine, you are the branches.*

*Whoever remains in me, with me in him, bears fruit in plenty; for cut off from me you can do nothing.*

*Anyone who does not remain in me is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers;*

*these branches are collected and thrown on the fire, and they are burnt.*

*If you remain in me and my words remain in you, you may ask what you will and you shall get it.*

***It is to the glory of my Father that you should bear much fruit, and then you will be my disciples.'***

**The Gospel of the Lord**

**R: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

# *Our Lady of the Rosary*

Catholic  Church

St Marys, NSW

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

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## **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year: October 7 2020 – November 28 2021**

To:

Dear

The parish of Our Lady of the Rosary St Marys began on November 27, 1946. Previously it was part of Penrith parish.

In 2021, therefore, we celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our Parish.

During these seventy-five years, thousands of people, so many of them migrants and refugees from post-World War II Europe and more recently from other afflicted countries, have found in this parish and this St Marys community a safe haven, a new beginning and a source of encouragement, nourishment and friendships.

This parish community rejoices in our history and in the many wonderful if unheralded stories and achievements during that time.

During this Anniversary year we celebrate in various ways and thank God for the many blessings. We shall also remember and pray for all parishioners who have gone before us to the Lord and who have sown where we now reap.

To commemorate this momentous occasion, our 75th Anniversary year, Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Pastoral Council has scheduled a whole year of activities for our Community. Some of these activities include special commemorative Masses and prayers, family sports day, camp fire sing-alongs, musical concerts, entertainment for the elderly etc, culminating with a Parish ball and a Concelebrated Mass of Thanksgiving in late November.

During this year we shall also be undertaking major church renovations, with roof replacement and interior improvements, to prepare us for the next seventy-five years.

We would be grateful for any assistance that you may be able to offer us for our celebrations and renovations. Know that you are most welcome to be our guest at any of our celebrations, and that your intentions will be included in our prayers.

God bless and many thanks in anticipation.

Sincerely,



Fr Brendan Murphy SDB  
Parish Priest