



Wednesday 20 March 2024

Dear parents and caregivers

Welcome to Week 8. As this will be my last newsletter before Easter, I'd like to bring your attention to the Holy Week services here at St Augustine's Parish.

Sunday 24 March-Palm Sunday, 10:00am

Thursday 28 March-Holy Thursday, 7:00pm

Friday 29 March-Good Friday, 2:30pm

Saturday 30 March-Easter Vigil, 7:00pm

Sunday 31 March, Easter Sunday, 10:00am.

URStrong Friendship Program

As I am sure you are aware, one of the school's goals in the area of community is to implement the URStrong friendship program. We hope this program will empower our students and families with the skills, language and self-confidence to develop healthy relationships.

The program not only supports our students, but parents and caregivers as well. Through the URStrong website, you will be able to access support so you can help empower your child to make healthier decisions in their friendships and resolve conflict (or put out 'friendship fires') in a respectful way.

Throughout future newsletters, I will be explaining what the children are learning in their classes. Please use the link below to access parent URStrong resources.

<https://urstrong.com/parents/>

St Joseph's Feast Day Mass

We celebrated our school's Feast Day with Mass today, Wednesday 20 March, at St Augustine's Church. St Joseph's role, of course, was to protect the Holy Family that was placed in his care. Our school is proudly named after him.

Chrism Mass

Our Year 6 Confirmation candidates have been invited to attend the Mass of the Oils in Bunbury on

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Thursday 21 March. The Mass takes its name from the blessing of the holy oils used in the sacraments throughout the year, which are then given to priests to take back to their parishes. Not only is this a wonderful opportunity for our students to be part of this celebration, but to mix with other Year 6 students from the Bunbury Diocese.

Reconciliation Class Retreat

We are very fortunate this year to have the lovely Shendelle Mullane from Catholic Mission facilitating the Year 3 Reconciliation retreat Thursday 21 March. Students will also participate in a Liturgy on Friday 22 March while baptised students will be celebrating the First Rite of Reconciliation with Fr Mars.

Murray River Clean Up

On Friday 22 March our Year 6 students, in partnership with the Peel-Harvey Catchment Council (PHCC) will be cleaning a section along the Murray River (just behind the school and up towards the Recreation Centre). The PHCC is an incorporated, not-for-profit, community based Natural Resource Management organisation that focuses on protecting and restoring the local environment. As a school, we are pleased to be able to assist and, in a practical way, demonstrate our service learning to the wider community, so that we reflect the Catholic social teachings that are the cornerstone of our Catholic Identity as a school.

Annual Easter Egg Raffle

You are invited to join us for our annual Easter Egg Raffle, Friday 22 March at 2:00pm in the Assembly Hall. There's still time to bring in your donations of Easter eggs, Easter baskets and Easter gifts AND to buy some last-minute tickets! The funds we raise are donated to Caritas Australia. We will also be announcing the winners of the P&F Easter colouring in competition!

Easter Liturgy and Stations of the Cross

As announced at Friday's assembly, due to the Year 5/6 camp, we will be scheduling the school's Easter Liturgy and Stations of the Cross earlier in the week. Please join us in the Assembly Hall, Monday 25 March at 8:45am for the Easter Liturgy and again at 11:30am for the Stations of the Cross.

Camp

Our biennial Year 5/6 camp is almost upon us! Mr Cosgrove, Mr Henry, Mrs O'Dwyer, Year 5 and 6 students and I will be making our way to Ern Halliday Recreation Camp on Tuesday 26 March and returning Thursday 28 March. Activities include the big swing, orienteering, team building, flying fox, lost pilot, rock climbing, archery, a pump bike track as well as nighttime games, such as escape the night. We are all

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looking forward to the students being able to engage in learning outside the classroom environment and have the opportunity to develop resilience, be challenged in a safe way, deepen existing bonds of friendship and hopefully develop some new ones!

Tuition Fees

As I am sure you are aware, all families have received communication from Mrs Bolt, our Finance Officer, regarding 2024 tuition fees. Those families who have not made arrangements with Mrs Bolt to pay their fees, please do so as soon as possible. As the Principal, it is my responsibility to ensure that tuition fees are paid. The school provides various payment options to ensure that all families are able to opt for a payment plan best suited to individual needs which enables our families to meet their commitments. In order for St Joseph's to plan and meet its financial commitments, we rely on all our families to contribute. I appreciate your cooperation and support here.

Year Two and Three classrooms

We are almost there! We are refurbishing these rooms while they are empty as the students were relocated while the corridor works continued. I am hoping the students will be able to begin Term Two in their 'new' rooms! I will certainly keep you updated.

Term Two

Please note, the last day of Term One is Holy Thursday, 28 March. The school canteen will be open Thursday for your convenience. *Term Two commences Tuesday, 16 April.*

Please note Monday 15 April is a Pupil Free Day where the teachers have scheduled parent teacher meetings. If you have not booked your time as yet, please do so as soon as possible. The school will also open the canteen Tuesday, 16 April for students.

Two items to keep in mind before we go on the Easter break...the P&F Disco (Birthday Party themed!) Friday 19 April and swimming lessons for Pre-primary to Year 6 students, Monday 22 April for two weeks until Friday 3 May. Please keep an eye out for further correspondence.

Enjoy the remainder of the term. I wish you all the blessings that Easter brings and I very much look forward to seeing you all in Term Two.

Enjoy the Easter break with your families and friends.

God bless

Ms Vanessa Gangell
Principal

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