

Dear Parents and Carers,

The following extract is taken from our bishop's reflection on the Advent in 2017. He paints a very clear picture of the Season of Advent.

Advent is my favourite season. It is closely linked with the biblical exile. It speaks about hope in the midst of despair; it renews a sense of purpose and commitment in the midst of turmoil; it frames all of our human experience in God's infinite horizons of love and salvation; it reminds us that God's dream for humanity is growing towards fulfillment, not withstanding all things to the contrary.

Advent is a time of reflection, a kind of spiritual wilderness in which John lived and Jesus himself was led by the Spirit of God at the beginning of his public ministry. It is a time of extricating oneself from the unnecessary trappings of life and focusing on that which matters the most. Advent, then, is a time we seek to nourish ourselves more deeply from the source of life and love. We are pruned and purified of the things that keep us from being true to our mission. We learn to live more simply and more truly. Let us pray that out of this time of affliction, God will bring about his plan for us and for his church. May we become a more authentic sign of his presence and love in the world. May we like Mary, who submitted humbly and courageously to God at every turn in her strenuous journey help us to be his humble servants. Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv

As we continue through Advent may we find peace and joy in the gift of the Christ Child and realise we are all called to focus on what is important in our lives, Faith, Family and Friends.

Words of Thanks

As you gather with your family for the Christmas season, I want to express my gratitude to all in the St Matthew's Community for all the work and effort that has made 2018 a wonderful celebration of catholic education in Windsor. It has been of vital importance that as a community we have reached out to all those in need and welcomed them to our school. I want to thank our parents for their support and generosity and the manner they have encouraged their children's education. We have been blessed with a dedicated staff whom have given freely of their time to provide the pastoral care and educational journey for the students at St Matthew's. Our connection with our Parish has continued to strengthen and we look forward to sharing many liturgies and Masses with our priests. Lastly, I would like to thank our students who come everyday and tried hard to be, "the best they can be". They have worked to make their parents and staff proud of their work. We have much to be thankful for and I look towards 2019 as a year of faith, fun and fantastic work.



ANDREW CHINNCHRISTMAS CONCERT TONIGHT

Due to the weather forecast, tonight's concert will be held at the **Good Samaritan Hall, Bede Polding College.**

Children to be at venue by 6:00 pm for a 6:30 pm start.

Drinks available to purchase \$1-\$1.50

Unfortunately the "bring a picnic dinner " is cancelled.

CALENDAR

TUCKSHOP 2U

This Friday is the last day for Tuckshop 2 U. Any orders received on Monday will be refunded.

FAREWELLS

We say farewell to a number of staff at the end of this year. St Matthew's has been blessed to have had their expertise and support over the past year. Miss Sant and Miss Schembri will be moving on to new adventures. Mrs Sara Kennedy our school counsellor will also be moving to new schools and will be replaced my Mrs Jeanne Appleton who is an expereince school counsellor in the Parramatta Diocesan school network. Mrs Baldock will also be taking leave for the 2019 school year. I would like to acknowledge these staff members and their contributions to our community. They have shown great pastoral care of our children and a professional manner in their work. On behalf of our community I wish them all the best for the future.

STUDENT LEADERS 2019

Congratulations to the following students on achieving their new positions and we look forward to their enhance participation and representation in our school community in 2019.

SRC

Stefanie Kim, Natalia Lupi, Max Turner, Charlotte Cook

Colour House Captains

Green - Rachael Gaul, Sean Miskelly

- Yellow Holly McKay, Jasmine Crinnion
- Blue Emerson Finch, Lincoln Burgess
- Red Georgia Crozier, Noah Beattie

May God's blessings be with you and your families during this special festive season. Merry Christmas to one and all.

In partnership let us continue to work to develop in the children strong minds and gentle hearts.

Tim Vane-Tempest Principal

Dec 17 Mon	K-5 End of Year Awards under COLA 2:15 pm			
Dec 18 Tues	Year 6 Graduation Mass (9:45 am - 11:00 am) Year 6 End of Year night 6:30 pm			
Dec 19 Wed	Last day of term K - 5 Swimming carnival & Water fun day. Year 6 Fun day activity			
Jan 29 Tue	MAI Interviews			
Jan 30 Wed	MAI Interviews			
Jan 31 Thur	First day of school for 2019			
Feb 22 Fri	Welcome Bbq to our new families			



STAFF 2019

Principal Mr. Tim Vane-Tempest

Assistant Principal Mrs Janine Whiteman

Religious Education Mrs Ann Climpson **Coordinator**

Literacy CoordinatorMiss Noreen KeanePBS4L CoordinatorMrs Sharon Williams

Numeracy Leader Mrs Janine Whiteman

Teaching Teams

Kindergarten Mrs Sarah Galea & Mrs Danielle Hudson

- Year 1Miss Stephanie Viviani,Mrs Annette Larnach,Miss Jacquie Mortimer
- Year 2 Mrs Aimee McGee (Mon/Tues) Mrs Emma Worrall (Wed-Fri)
- Year 3 Miss Danielle Galea
- Year 4 Mrs. Ann Burke Mrs Ann Climpson
- Stage 3Mrs. Sharon WilliamsMrs Erin BlackmanMrs Amy Stockman (Mon-Wed)Mrs Rachael Usher (Thurs/Fri)

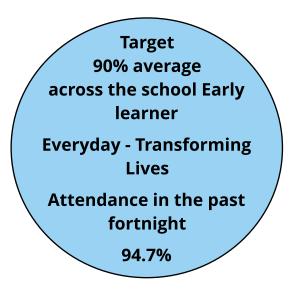
Learning Support Miss Noreen Keane (Mon-Fri) Mrs Mary Thornton (Mon, Tues, Wed) Mrs Rhona Hughes (Thurs, Fri)

Teacher AssistantMrs. Kathy RichardsMrs Sandra Mitchell

Administration Staff Mrs. Stacey Roberts (Mon-Fri) Mrs. Sophia Babazogli (Tues, Wed, Thurs)

Teacher Release
REC Release Mrs Karen Brand (Wed)
Music/Drama Miss Abbey Pollack (Thurs,Fri)
Japanese Mrs Lauren Athanasiou
PE Mrs. Karen Brand (Thurs,Fri)
Library Mrs. Alyssa Bennett(Thurs)

Grounds/Maintenance Mr. Terry Munsey (Tues/Thurs mornings)





12 Tebbutt Street PO Box 406 Windsor 2756 Telephone: (02) 4560 2300 email: stmatthews@parra.catholic.edu.au web:www.stmatthewswindsor.catholic.edu.au

Dear Parents,

Next year we are continuing with our online process for MAI interviews. Most of our families have used this online process extremely successfully in the past.

MAI interviews will be held in the classroom at various times on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th January 2019.

You will be able to book an interview at a time that suits **YOUR FAMILY BEST** from the **15th November 2018.**

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow the instructions below.



BOOKINGS WILL CLOSE 21st January 2019

When you click **finish**, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.

You can return to <u>www.schoolinterviews.com.au</u> at any time, and change your interviews, until Monday 21st January 2019 when bookings close.

Interviews are strictly 30mins. We ask you to arrive 5 minutes earlier to ensure a smooth transition between interviews. Parents will need to remain at school during their child's interview. Tea, coffee and a cool drink will be available in the hall.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the <u>www.schoolinterviews.com.au</u> website, and using the event code **sgcrs**. Remember to use the same name and email address that you used when you made your original booking. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on: (02) 4560 2300.

We look forward to meeting with you soon and thank you for your support.

St Matthew's Teachers

CYBER SAFETY THIS HOLIDAY

Children create lasting records of their lives whenever they post something online. In a world where anything can be copied, pasted, altered and distributed in the blink of an eye to a vast invisible audience, children need to develop the understanding that their actions online can have lasting impacts and implications.

Safety when online is something that, as adults, we have ongoing responsibility to remind our children about. It is appropriate that we remind ourselves as parents of the need to be actively engaged with our children and the way they are using the plethora of online options for social networking and communication.

As a school community it is important to help each child understand the consequences of their actions. Helping children to stay safe when online involves helping them to think long term about posting pictures, content and personal information that may come back to them at some point in the future. Here are a few rules of the road that will help children as they grow up in an increasingly public world:

1. Guard your privacy. What people know about you is up to you!

2. Protect your reputation. Self-reflect before you self-reveal. Do you really want people to see or know this about yourself?

3. Nothing is private online. Anything you say or do can be copied, pasted, and sent to multiple people without your permission.

4. Assume everyone is watching. There's a vast audience out there, which grows daily. If someone is your friend's friend, they can see everything.

5. Apply the Golden Rule. Respect yourself and respect others. If you don't want it done to you, don't do it to someone else.

6. Choose wisely. Not all content is appropriate. You know what you mean, but do others?

- 7. Don't hide. Using anonymity to cloak your actions doesn't make you a responsible and trustworthy person
- 8. Think about what you see. Just because it's online doesn't make it true.
- 9. Be smart, be safe. Not everyone is who they say they are.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

COSHC are offering care for the Staff Development Day on Wednesday 30th January 2019. Applications can be collected from the front office and is also available on a page later in the newsletter.

Bookings close this Friday 14th December, unfortunately COSHC are not able to accept the new Kindergarten children.

END OF YEAR OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES

The end of year activities planned to celebrate our year of learning at St Matthew's are outlined below for your information. We look forward to celebrating these events with the whole community. **Monday 17th December** -

• 2:15-3:00 K-5 Awards afternoon in the COLA

Tuesday 18th December

- 9:45 am Year 6 Farewell Mass, Awards
- Year 6 celebration in the evening

Wednesday 19th December -

- K-5 will attend the 2019 School Swimming carnival and Water Fun Day
- Year 6 students Activity Day & Last day for students



Monday 27th November, 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

St Matthew's Catholic Primary School: Pupil Free Day

As families are aware, Wednesday 30th January, 2019 is a Pupil Free Day at St Matthew's Catholic Primary School. Catholic Out of School Hours Care at St Matthew's is able to offer limited places for care on this day. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, priority given to families already enrolled at the service.

Opening Times: 6:45am to 6:30pm

Flat Fee: \$50.00 per child for the day, prior to Child Care Benefit deductions. Families that already attend COSHC on Mondays will have their regular fee deducted from the \$50.00 fee.

How to secure a position for Wednesday 30th January, 2019

Simply complete the tear off slip below and return to the school office or COSHC to secure your position. Families new to COSHC will be required to complete an enrolment form

No further applications will be accepted after 1:00pm on Friday 7th December, 2018.

Please note: If your child would normally attend Before &/or After School Care on a Friday and do not attend on this Friday, they will be marked as absent and normal fee charged.

Further enquires are to be directed to the COSHC Supervisor on 0418170921 or coshcstmatthewswindsor@parra.catholic.edu.au

PUPIL FREE DAY REQUEST FORM - Wednesday 30th January, 2019

I will require all day care on the Pupil Free Day, Wednesday 30th January, 2019 at COSHC St Matthew's Windsor. I accept that if I book care for my child/ren and they do not attend on the day, my child/ren will be marked absent and the daily fee will still apply.

Child's Name:	School Class:	

Parent / Carer Name:

Signature:

Date:

I am new to Catholic Out of School Hours Care. Please send me an enrolment form.



RELIGION

Greetings St Matthew's School Community! It is hard to believe that this Sunday will be the Third Sunday of Advent. Just as John the Baptist prepared the way for the coming of Jesus, we also prepare ourselves through our thoughts, words and actions. Thank you to all our students at St Matthew's who raised money to support a range of charities this term through their Mission and Advent Religious Education units. Not only was money raised- but also an awareness of Social Justice was raised throughout our community. John the Baptist in the Gospel this Sunday advocates a change of heart – which should then reflect in our actions and attitudes.

Social Justice at St Matthew's School is alive and strong. Thank you for your support.

School Parish Mass

Thank you to everyone who came and participated in our last School Parish Mass for the year two weeks ago. Our students at St Matthew's gave glory to God in the way they read, sang, served, danced and prayed. Thank you again to all the families who came and celebrated the first day of Advent together praising God and using the many gifts we are blessed with.

<u>Plenary 2020</u>

Early in 2019, there will be an opportunity to join a small group to share your ideas and thoughts about the Catholic Church and what it might look like in the future. Everyone is welcome to join a group- Catholics and non- Catholics.

Come and have your say.

Farewell.

We farewell our Year Six students and any students leaving St Matthew's, as they begin their journey of new learning, friendships, challenges and successes in the future. Thank you for your participation in our Masses, Liturgies, Social Justice projects, prayer and everything you have done to glorify God in your words, thoughts and actions. God Bless you and your families.

The Feast of The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary.

Last Saturday, the 8th of December, was the feast of The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary. The title of The Immaculate Conception recognises the privilege of Mary being born without sin- from the very first moment of life.

We honour Our Lady, our Mother, and thank Her for saying "Yes " to God to become the Mother of Jesus.

We ask Mary Our Mother to protect us as we celebrate the Birth of Jesus at Christmas and always.

" Holy Spirit, Fill our hearts with love and prepare us for the coming of Jesus. Amen."

May the Lord bless you and your family. Thank you for your support this year. Merry Christmas.

Ann Climpson

Jesus in our hearts – Forever!

Mary Our Mother- Protect us.

St Matthew- Pray for us.



SPORT

<u>Week 10</u>

Wednesday December 19 - St Matthew's Swimming Carnival & Water Fun Day

Swimming Carnival

Our St Matthew's Swimming Carnival will be taking place at the end of the term, Wednesday December 19! Please ensure you have sent in both notes by Friday November 30. If your child is not attending school on the day please notify the school.

Our Events this year are:

- 100 m Freestyle open
- 50m Freestyle
- 50m Backstroke
- 50m Breaststroke
- 50m Butterfly
- 25m Freestyle
- 25m Backstroke
- 25m Breaststroke

The 100 m swim will take place at 9:00 am for those who wish to take part. Otherwise students are expected to arrive at school as per normal to take the bus to the venue.

The competitive timed races are open to all children that range in age from 8-12 years old. To be <u>eligible children</u> <u>must already be 8+ years old or turning 8 next year (2019)</u> in order to try out for a place on the school Zone Swimming Carnival Team 2019.

Can you please assist us with the organisation of the day by:

- Discussing with your child whether they wish to try out for the zone carnival.
- To compete they need to be able to <u>competently</u> swim 50m.

There will be events/activities run to suit all the swimming levels and abilities for all children attending on the day. All children are expected to participate at their level. We are looking forward to another fun-filled swimming carnival again this year!

Water Fun Day

We have fun filled Water Fun Day for all of our Kindergarten and Year 1 students on our last day of school, Wednesday December 19! Students will participate in a variety of water fun activities through the day.

**Please note only students in Year 1 who are turning 8 in 2019 and wish to take place in the 50 m races will be able to attend the St Matthew's Swimming Carnival.

Thank you to all the children and parents for a fun filled year.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas, safe and happy holidays.

Mrs Karen Brand,

Sports Co-ordinator.



2019 Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials

Winter sport registrations opened on Monday November 19th 2018.

Any Primary students enrolled in Year 5 and 6 in 2019 are invited to participate in the Parramatta Diocesan Team Sport Trials during Term One & Two in 2019.

It is important to note that these trials are generally for those children who display an above average ability and/or have representative experience in their chosen sport. While teams are open in age it is strongly recommended that only children of a representative standard in Years 5 & 6 in 2019 be invited to attend.

Parramatta Diocesan trials will be held in the following sports:

*AFL (boys), Cricket (B&G), Diving (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Football (B&G), Golf (B&G), Hockey (B&G), Netball (girls), Rugby League (11yrs & Opens), Rugby Union (boys), Softball (B&G), Touch(B&G).

To be eligible for selection for these trials an Online Team Registration Form must be completed that can be accessed via the website www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au.

This online form is an EXPRESSION OF INTEREST for the 2019 Parramatta Diocesan Primary Sport Team trials. Parents may complete this form to attend a selection trial. One form is to be completed per child, per individual sport. Each sport has its own criteria therefore, it is imperative that the correct form is completed.

Please note that your online registration is an EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ONLY and MUST be approved by the child's school. In order for the child to attend the nominated trial or event this may come down to the discretion of the school as to who is selected to attend the trial. In some sports only 2 students per school can be nominated. All fields and especially "Representative Experience" MUST be completed.

Under no circumstances will a child be eligible to trial if the Online Registration Form has not been completed and approved by the school by the closing date of Friday February 1st 2019.

Detailed information can be found on the website: www.primarysportparra.catholic.edu.au

LIBRARY



LIBRARY



STUDENT OF THE WEEK

KINDER	Kaytlyn - for her contributions to class discussions in HSIE time. Well done! Jaxon - for writing interesting sentences using adjectives. Great Job! William - For his excellent effort in writing time to create interesting sentences. Zoe - For her excellent effort in writing time to create interesting sentences.
YEAR1	Sienna - for working hard to create a scientific drawing of the lifecycle of a turtle. Samuel - for working hard to create a scientific drawing of the lifecycle of a turtle. Alannah - for making an effort to make thoughtful contributions during class discussions. Olivia - for showing true Catholic values by offering to share her things with others.
YEAR2	Mackenzie - for consistently sharing her wonderful ideas in class discussions and for always being willing to help her peers in the classroom. Gabriella - for always displaying the qualities of being a safe, responsible and respectful learner at St Matthews. Shelby - for always displaying the qualities of being a safe, responsible and respectful learner at St Matthews. Lily - for always displaying the qualities of being a safe, responsible and respectful learner at St Matthews. Tyler - for participating enthusiastically during reciprocal reading discussions and making great text-to-self connections.
YEAR 3	 Amelia - for improvement in all key learning areas. Sienna - for always following instructions and showing respect to her teachers and peers. Jacinda - for always being kind and helpful to her teachers and peers. Mikaella - for her regular contributions to classroom discussions. Noah - for always working consistently and showing respect to others.
YEAR4	Patrick - for trying hard in multiplying 2-digit numbers. Daniel - an excellent presentation for his procedure on making reindeer biscuits. Joseph - for an excellent presentation for his procedure in making a chocolate mud cake. Hannah - always putting 110% in all aspects of her learning.
STAGE 3	Rylan - for an improved attitude and application towards his studies. Keep it up! Georgia - for a good understanding of how we can say 'YES' to God during Advent. William - for a good understanding of how we can say 'YES' to God during Advent. Jasmin - for continuing to edit and redraft her writing. Christopher - for a well thought out and researched PBL Museum Exhibit. Noah - for consistently working hard and persevering on all Mathematics tasks to challenge his thinking. Joel - for more focused approach to his work Jude - working on the overall presentation of his work

Mrs Neave has limited spaces available for private Piano & Singing lessons in 2019.

Professional private piano or singing tuition that will encourage and support your child's love of music. This is available during school hours on Monday. I will negotiate with teachers and create a timetable so that your child will not miss out on their school learning.

Or there are spaces evailable after school hours at my Riverstone music school. If you take a look on our facebook page & website you will see that at Making Musicians we are enthusiastic, fun teachers who love watching our students progress and grow into excellent performers.

We encourage participation in performances, concerts & elsteddfods but also make sure that lessons are FUN.

Email Kayle to enquire for 2019

m.musicians1@gmail.com www.makingmusicians.com.au

ABN: 29 867 327 565



Learning with Technology at St Matt's

Curious about the technology we use at St Matt's or do you have questions before purchasing a BYOD device for your primary student?

I

DIGITAL LEARNING Q&A

Email our Learning with Technology Support Teacher Rachael Usher on rusher3@parra.catholic.edu.au to ask your question via email, arrange a callback or a time to drop into school. The school canteen will operate next year Term 1, Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday commencing Week 2 Monday 4th February. Below is a copy of the menu.

Canteen Menu

LUNCH MENU

Sausage rolls \$3.00 Beef pie \$3.50 Homemade Pizzas - Hawaiian, Cheese or BBG Chicken \$4.00 Hot dogs \$3.00 add cheese 40c sauce 40c Chicken burger - crumbed chicken, Lettuce, Cheese and Mayo \$4.50 Cheeseburger - beef, cheese, tomato sauce \$4.50 Aussie Beef - lettuce, tomato, beetroot, BBQ sauce \$4.50 Aussie chicken burger - Grilled chicken, lettuce, BBQ sauce, cheese \$5.00 6 Chicken Nuggets \$3.50 Homemade Lasagne \$4.00 GF \$4.50 Penne Napolitano \$3.50 GF \$4.00 Homemade Mac and Cheese \$3.50 GF \$4.00 Frittata - veggie or cheese and ham \$3.50 GF Noodle cups - beef or chicken \$3.00 Rice paper rolls (veggie, chicken or tuna) \$3.00 each Corn cob \$1.00

All Sauce portions are 40c each

SALADS

Caesar Salad \$4.00 GF available Chicken Caesar Salad \$5.00 GF available Garden Salad \$4.00 Ham and Garden salad \$5.00 Chicken and Garden salad \$5.00 Tuna and garden salad \$5.00

EXTRAS Cheese, Egg. Chicken \$1.00

SANDWICHES

Toasted add 40c extra Wraps add 50c extra Rolls 50c extra Gluten Free \$1.00 extra Vegenite, honey or jam \$2.00 Ham \$2.50 Cheese \$2.00 Salad - tomato, cucumber, carrot, beetroot, lettuce \$3.50 Chicken, cheese, lettuce and mayo \$3.50 Egg. lettuce and mayo \$3.50 Tuna, lettuce and mayo \$3.50 Chicken and salad \$4.50 Choose from white or wholemeal Add avocado, cheese or tomato 40c extra

SNACKS

Popcorn \$1.00 Chips Assorted \$1.50 (Honey soy Chicken, Sea salt) Jelly cups 50c Vanila Custard 60c Vanila yoghurt 60c Bread sticks 10c each Freshly baked brownies \$1.00 Carrot or cucumber sticks with cream cheese dip \$2.00 Corn cob \$1.00 Apple \$1.00 Pear \$1.00 Benene \$1.00 Orange \$1.00



Canteen Menu

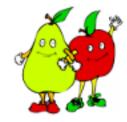
DRINKS

Water \$2.00 Hot chocolates \$2.00 Mik – Chocolate, Strawberry or Banana \$2.50 G Up and Go's – Vanila or Chocolate \$2.50 G Poppers – Orange, Apple or Apple Blackcurrant \$1.50 G Glee's - Tropical, Raspberry, Grape \$2.20



Berri Quelch sticks (Apple, Blackcurrant, Tropical, Orange and mango) \$1.00 Ice Mony freeze pops - Chocolate \$1.20 TNT blue raspberry \$1.20 Frozen Juice cups – apple or Orange \$1.20 Vanilla ice cream cup 99% fat free Gluten free \$1.50





PUBLISHED December 2018

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES

2019 Diocesan School Fees

13 December 2018

Dear parents and carers

Please find below the Annual Diocesan fees schedule for 2019. The new schedule includes a very modest 2.7% increase on the fees from 2018.

School-based fees will also be limited to a 2.7% increase. School-based fees cover the costs of important things such as technology and school administration.

School fees are generally billed in instalments during Terms 1, 2 and 3. The fee is made up of three main parts:

1. Diocesan tuition fee

These are set by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta and are the same for every school. There are significant sibling discounts for families with more than one child at a Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta school (it does not have to be the same school).

Those discounts and a list of the annual Diocesan tuition fees for 2019 are outlined below.

2019 Diocesan tuition fee schedule (per year)

	1** child (100%)	2™ child (75%)	3 rd child (50%)	4 th Child (0%)
Kindergarten	\$1,206	\$903	\$803	No fee
Years 1 – 6	\$1,557	S1,167	\$780	No fee
Years 7 – 8	\$2,157	S1,617	\$1,080	No fee
Years 9 – 10	\$2,394	S1,794	\$1,197	No fee
Years 11 – 12	\$3,057	S2,292	\$1,530	No fee

2. Diocesan Building Levy

This fee is set by Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatia and is the same for every school. The annual Diocesan building levy for 2019 is \$804. There is only one Diocesan building levy per family with one or more children in a Parramatta Diocesan school or at St Dominic's College, Kingswood and it is billed in instalments over the first 3 terms of the year. A sibling discount of 50% is granted to families with children within the bordering Archdiocese of Sydney and Dioceses of Wollongong and Broken Bay.

3. School-based fees

These are determined by the school according to the needs of that school and billable for each child. Schoolbased fees are often called 'resource fees' or 'activity fees'. These fees help schools cover the costs of things like teaching resources, technology, excursions etc.



Bishop Office

Christmas 2018 Mass Times

Christmas Mass and Reconciliation times across Western Sydney and the Blue Mountains can be found by visiting: www.parracatholic.org

Thank You for Showing the Compassionate Face of Christ to Homeless Young Mothers and children in crisis

Bishop Vincent, Parramatta Catholic Foundation, CatholicCare and Houses to Homes thank you for supporting the Bishop's Christmas Appeal. Thanks to your kind-hearted generosity, Houses to Homes can provide more homeless mothers with the shelter, support, independent living and parenting skills programs they desperately need.

Please pray for the wellbeing of all mothers and children in Houses to Homes' care. If you haven't had a chance to donate, please visit yourcatholicfoundation.org.au/appeal

Time is running out for Plenary Council 2020

Submissions to Plenary Council 2020 close on Ash Wednesday, 6 March 2019. YOUR voice matters! Make a personal submission now or join a small group. Our question is for everyone: "What you think God is asking of us in Australia at this time?" To make a submission or to find out more visit: https://parracatholic.org/haveyoursayplenary2020/

The Epiphany Pilgrimage: the journey of the Magi

The Epiphany Pilgrimage is a not-for-profit event of the Diocese of Parramatta and an outreach of the Blue Mountains Deanery. Beginning at Emu Plains on 2 January and finishing 7 days later at Bell, pilgrims walk through the beautiful Blue Mountains bushland and join parishioners in daily Mass, Adoration, prayer, catechesis and fellowship.

To register for all or part of the pilgrimage, visit www.epiphanypilgrimage.org. For updates and to follow the journey see www.facebook.com/epiphanypilgrimage

St Patrick's Gift Shop

St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta is bringing Christmas cheer by opening an on-site gift shop. Opening hours will be 10am – 3pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Sunday. For more information visit: https://stpatscathedral.com.au/

Christmas at St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook: 16 December

Music and Readings for Christmas, a major outreach celebration at St Finbar's Catholic Church, Glenbrook, will take place on Sunday 16th December. This includes St Finbar's organ played by Amy Johansen with opening and closing prayers by Father Jolly. Service commences at 7.30pm. 46 Levy Street, Glenbrook. There will be a request for donations (\$15/\$35 Families). For more information please call 02 4758 6067.

Concert at St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta: 17 December

Australian Brandenburg Orchestra Concert. Tickets via www.brandenburg.com.au/ – More details at: https://stpatscathedral.com.au

Holy Trinity Parish Granville Carols By Candlelight: 21 December

Join us for a Solemn evening of carols and readings of sacred scripture as we prepare for the Birth of Our Lord. Friday 21 December from 8pm. Holy Trinity Church – corner Randle St and Bennalong St, Granville

Nigerian Mass in Igbo: 23 December

Rev Fr Chukwunonyerem Akamadu, Chaplain to the Nigerian Catholic community, will celebrate Mass at 12.30pm at Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish, 198 Old Prospect Road, Greystanes. Contact Fr Akamadu tel 0451 174 438, Stella Nwosu 0405 478 472.

Feast of the Holy Family: 29 December

The Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth cordially invite family and youth (age 18-35) to join us for a Celebration Vigil for the Feast of the Holy Family. Saturday 29 December 2018 at 3:00pm. Join us also for pizza at 5:30pm. 116-132 Quakers Road, Marayong. RSVP to Sr Paula by 27 December via vocationscsfn@gmail.com or 0449 656 406.

Walk the Camino Portugués

Walk the Camino Portugués. Catholic Mission are holding 17-day Pilgrimages: Lisbon, Fatima, Porto, Santiago de Compostela. Two pilgrimages: May 2019 and June 2019. Small group led by Sr Veronica OP, (0451 387 906). See https://www.catholicmission.org.au/get-involved/immersions/camino-portugues

NAPPA Conference 2019 – Early Bird

The NAPPA Conference will be held on Tuesday 26 February 2019. At this time we simply want to offer a courtesy reminder that our "Early Bird" discount offer closes on the 17 December 2018. You can register via this link: www.nappa2019.wixsite.com/conference or contact Tanya Quinn on 02 8838 3441.

Los Angeles Religious Education Congress 2019: Thirsting for Justice

A wonderful opportunity for a faith formation experience for parishioners, leaders, teachers, catechists ... all people in ministry and all people who would like to enrich their faith! Join this pilgrimage group to attend the Los Angeles Religious Education Congress 18-30 March 2019. Cost of pilgrimage \$4350 for 12 days with some additional expenses. Please contact Lisa Bright on 9622 1125 or lbright@mqofblacktown.org.au for an information pack.

Grief to Grace - Healing the Wounds of Abuse

This is a spiritual retreat for anyone who has suffered degradation or violation through physical, emotional, sexual or spiritual abuse. The retreat will be held May 26 – 31 2019. To request an application contact Anne by emailing info@grieftograceaus.org.au or phone 0478599241. For more information visit www.grieftograce.org

For more events please go to: http://parracatholic.org/events/