Dear Parents and Carers,

Last Saturday we celebrated the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians.

The feast day to Mary Help of Christians has been celebrated in Australia since 1844 but the history to this day dates back to the start of the 1800's. Napoleon Bonapart had jailed Pius VI who died in jail.

When Pope Pius VII was elected he too was jailed by Bonaparte, who kept him prisoner at Fontainbleau. The Holy Father vowed to God that if he were restored to the Roman See, he would institute a special feast in honour of Mary.

The military eventually forced Bonaparte to release the Pope and on 24 May 1814, Pius VII returned in triumph to Rome and twelve months later decreed that the feast of Mary Help of Christians be kept on 24 May.

The infant church in Australia had a special reason for turning to Mary. No priests were sent to the colony in its early days and Mass was not allowed until 1820. It was largely the Rosary in those early days that kept the Catholic faith alive.

Catholic Australia remained faithful to Mary and was the first nation to choose her under the title Help of Christians, as principal Patroness.

St Mary's Cathedral was dedicated in her honour by the Irish pioneer priest, Fr John Therry, who arrived in Sydney in 1820 and assumed responsibility for the planning and initial construction of the Cathedral.

When Australia became the first country to have Mary Help of Christians as Patroness, it became the first country to have a mother-cathedral under the same title.

In the Opening Prayer for Our Lady Help of Christians, the Church prays that through Our Lady's intercession God will "grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens", so that "under her protection Australia may be granted harmony, justice and peace". Let us pray for the courage and commitment to work with Mary in carrying out the mission of Jesus in our abundant country, Australia.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.

May God bless you and keep you,

Fran Jackson
Principal

Fun Food Day - Friday 6th June
Cheese and bacon rolls $2. Lunch 1
Safety First on our street

Some parents continue to abuse the safety rules when collecting their children after school. A minute’s poor decision can cause a lifetime of pain.

- The administration driveway is NOT for U-turns or picking up children.
- Blocking vision of the children’s crossing is illegal.
- Blocking residents’ driveways and the street, is inconsiderate to say the least.

Teachers are on duty till 3.30pm and no child is ever left alone to wait for parents. It stands to reason that not every one of our 266 students can all be collected at 3pm. Be prepared to wait or walk. Every parent, student and staff thank you for looking out for the safety of each one of our children. Please do your bit!

Parent Association Meeting

Many thanks to the PA committee for organising the school disco last Friday. The children had a ball! Thank to all the parents who came to assist with security, orderly admission and dismissal, shopping and generally ensuring everyone was safe and happy.

It was disappointing that only seven parents attended the meeting on the Monday night. Mrs McGannon presented the work Year 4 students are doing as part of the iLearn project. The discussion following the presentation will help with further development of the project. Thank you all!

Next Parent Association meeting: 7.00pm, Monday 4th August! Topic: EMU (Mathematics).

Second Hand Uniform Sale

Parents are invited to donate clean uniform items for a “Used Uniform Sale” to be held later this term. Second Hand Clothing will be for sale Monday to Friday from 8:30am, starting Monday 2nd June in MPA.

Family Fun Day / Grandparents’ Day – Sunday 10th August 2014

This year we will celebrate our grandparents as part of our Family Fun Sunday. We will begin at 10am with a school Mass in the church, then proceed with student performances in the MPA. There will also be a sausage sizzle, café and book fair. Classrooms will be open for visitors. Put the date in your diary! Come for an hour or the whole day. Special gift for all grandparents attending on the day.

Diocesan Works Fund – faith@work.org.au

Parramatta diocese has numerous outreach programs to support the disabled, homeless, refugees and people in need. While there are many volunteers involved in this work, some programs require qualified staff who, obviously, need to be paid. Money is also necessary for resources, such as food, clothing and shelter. Please return your DWF envelope to school with a donation to help this important work to, not only continue, but grow. Every dollar counts!

Captivate Showcases

We have groups of students participating in the Choral, Strings and Band Showcases in mid-June. Information and permission notes have gone home to all the students participating. Ticket information has also gone home and is available on the Captivate website http://www.captivate.catholic.edu.au

Learning News

Parent Reading

A big thank you to those parents who have volunteered their time to come to school and read a story to our children. They love hearing the stories you choose to read to them. We appreciate your flexibility and the time you give to make this a successful program. The children look forward to each and every time you come along. There are new books in the reading tub...so enjoy.

Terrie Berg

World of Maths Roadshow

As part of this semester’s work, we have organised the World of Maths Roadshow to visit our school. The World of Maths Roadshow is an ideal opportunity for students to see how maths is applied to some real life situations. Students will gain insight into problem solving, working in teams, and also various maths principals which are part of their curriculum. It is a highly engaging session which will show the children that maths can be fun. ALL PARENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

World of Maths- Timetable

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<th>Thursday 29th May 2014</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Session 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;9:10 to 10:20</td>
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<td>KBP</td>
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<td><strong>Session 2</strong>&lt;br&gt;11:40 to 1:10</td>
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Sports News...

**Stage 3 Soccer Gala Day**
Last Tuesday fourteen boys from year five and six went to the Stage Three Soccer Gala Day. The boys had a sensational day and showed great sportsmanship. They won five games, drew one game and lost one. This meant that they came equal first for the day! An awesome effort.

A huge thank you to all of the parents that helped out on the day and also did plenty of cheering.

**Greg Alexander Shield Gala Day (Rugby League)**
We had ten boys from year five and six who went to the Greg Alexander Shield Gala Day. The boys were up against some tough competition.

Throughout the day they got across the line for a number of tries and had an impressive conversion rate. The boys played extremely well and were the best-behaved players on the day.

A huge thank you to all of the parents that came along and cheered. A special thank you to Mr Matthew Lehn and Mr Francis Nuulite for warming the boys up and talking tactics on the field.

General News...

**School Fees – Due 2nd June 2014**
Thank you to the families who have already finalised their Term 2 school fees account. Thank you also to the families who are maintaining their approved payment arrangements.

School fees for Term 2 are due by 2nd June. If you are experiencing financial difficulty in finalising your account or maintaining your payment arrangement please contact Jenny Pendleton on 4732 3999.

**Kindergarten 2015 Enrolments**
Kindergarten 2015 enrolments are now taking place - first round offers will be finalised this Friday 30th May.

**Excursion Notes**
Do you need a copy of an excursion note? No problem! Copies are now placed on our website. Just go to http://www.stjosephskingswood.catholic.edu.au then click on the Parents tab, then select Notes From School.

**Change of Date for Week 7 Assembly**
Please note that due to Queens Birthday public holiday on the Monday, and the Athletics Carnival being on the Tuesday, the Assembly for Week 7 will now be held on Wednesday 11th June. This will be hosted by Year 4.

**School Photos**
Please note that we have not been given a delivery date for school photos. As soon as they arrive at school we will distribute them to students. Thank you for your understanding.

**Athletics Carnival**
The Athletics Carnival will be held on **Tuesday 10th June**. Permission Notes are due back to school by **Monday 2nd June**.

Community News...

**Joey’s Before and After School Care Inc**
Joey’s Before and After School Care Inc is a Child Care Benefit approved centre that is located on the school site. They have a flexible, relaxed, program catering to all ages and most interests with staff that are dedicated and caring. They value and encourage family input. Phone 4732 5771. Hours: Monday to Friday (excluding public holidays): 6.30am to 8.30am and 3.00pm to 6.30pm. Special 8.00am service is also available. Vacation Care programs run during school holidays from 7.00am to 6.00pm.

**Parish Playgroup**
Parish Playgroup for children not yet at school is held on Mondays at 10.00am in the Parish Hall (Lieberman Room). Parents are welcome to attend our Monday morning assembly, have a cuppa afterwards and then go over to playgroup, or you can just go to Playgroup at 10.00am. We hope to see you there.
St Joseph’s Catholic Church Kingswood—Mass Times
Cnr Joseph Street & Richmond Road, Kingswood    Phone 4721 4080
Office Hours: 9:00am-2:00pm Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30am—1:30pm Friday

Weekend Masses
Saturday Vigil - 6pm
Sunday - 8.30am and 10.00am
Polish Mass - Saturday 4pm

Sacrament Of Penance - Saturday after morning mass
Eucharistic Adoration - Before all masses

Weekday Masses
Monday to Friday 8am
Saturday 8.30am

STEEPING BEYOND: SUPPORT FOR THOSE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED
If you have been separated or divorced and would benefit from regular shared discussion evenings with others who are in a similar situation to you, come along to STEPPING BEYOND on the last Tuesday of each month at CCSS Centre, 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown, at 7.30pm! You are very likely to be supported and helped through the sharing of experiences on matters such as “How well are you stepping beyond? What do you want to step beyond? What are you currently stepping beyond? What is stopping you from stepping beyond? What have you learned as you keep stepping beyond?” Venue: CCSS centre 51-59 Allawah St, Blacktown. Time: 7.30 – 9.30. Cost: $5.00.
Registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205

DEALING WITH THE LEGAL SYSTEM
Each year CatholicCare Solo Parent Ministry offers an Information night for anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding on how to choose the best lawyer for your situation, how best to deal with Lawyers so as to minimize your legal fees and how to protect your rights regarding family assets. This night is being held on Tues 10th June at 7.30pm at CCSS Centre, 51-58 Allawah St, Blacktown. Guest Speaker: Mr Richard Brading, (Solicitor at Wesley Legal Service, Castlereagh St.) Further details and registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205

Boys and Girls, 7 – 13 years
are invited to join

Penrith City Children’s Choir
for its next project

Welcome to Rustin’ Creek
directed by Lucy McAlary
starting soon!

If you love to sing, please join us.
No auditions.

For further information,
contact the Administrator:
Liz Strasser
0418 202 849
pccc@penrithcitychoir.com.au