



Our Lady of Mount Carmel

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

In our Catholic faith Easter is the most significant event of the Christian calendar. It is a period of intense sorrow for Christians, brought about by the death of Christ on the cross (Good Friday) but also of great spiritual happiness through the miracle of the Resurrection (Easter Sunday).

As Lent ends, Holy Week begins with Palm (or Passion) Sunday this weekend. It is on Palm Sunday that Jesus arrived in Jerusalem on a donkey and the people of the city laid palm fronds on the road, they joyfully cried out to him, "Hosanna; Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord".

Holy Week comprises of the seven days before Easter. The last three days of Holy Week link Lent and Easter and they are called the Triduum (meaning three days): Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday. The Easter Vigil begins the new season of Easter on Holy Saturday night.

Proclaiming **ALLELUIA!** Christ is Risen on Easter Sunday is a joyous event. It is a time of great hope, for death has been overcome by God's power and grace.

As we come to the end of our Lenten journey, let us not forget that God made a great promise to all of us by raising Jesus from the dead. Jesus' resurrection is a triumph over death. It also holds the message that love is stronger than hate and hope is stronger than despair.

All parents are invited to gather tomorrow (Thursday) at 2:30pm to join in a reflective journey of the Easter Story prepared by the children during their 'God Day' on Monday. I would also encourage all families to participate in the Holy Week services taking place in our Parish. Details of the services can be found on the next page.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank.....

- our staff for their dedication in ensuring the children of OLMC have a range of learning opportunities to help them glow and grow as learners.
- our students for their enthusiasm in getting involved in the learning and social experiences of school
- our parents for their support of the work our teachers do and their involvement in the amazing Fete
- our Carmelite priests for their spiritual guidance and support of our community.

With the conclusion of this *very long* term, I wish you all a restful holiday that provides an opportunity to recharge ready for more great learning in Term Two.

Olimpia Pirovic
Acting Principal

The Community of OLMC is Safe and Respectful

UPCOMING DATES

TERM 2 STARTS - MONDAY, 29 APRIL
STUDENTS WILL WEAR WINTER UNIFORM

Week 11

Thu: Cross Country Carnival
 2:20pm God Day Parent Reflection
Fri: Last Day of Term 1
 2:45pm Kindergarten Easter Hat Parade

Term 2 - Week 1

Mon: 9am Assembly - 1B
Wed: Mothers' Day Stall Gift Wrapping
Thu: 8:15am Morning Workout

Term 2 - Week 2

Mon: 9am Assembly - 1G
Tue: 8am-3pm Diocesan Cross Country
Wed:
 8:45am - Yr5 Justice & Police Excursion
 9:30-10:30am Kindy Open Morning
Thu: Mothers' Day Stall 10am
 8:15am Morning Workout
Fri: 8am Mother's Day Mass & Breakfast

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Penitential Service Wed 10th April at 7.30pm
 Individual Reconciliation Good Friday 9:30-10:30am
 No Reconciliation on Holy Saturday

Stations of the Cross: Fri 12th April after 9am Mass and Good Friday at 9am

Palm Sunday: Principal Mass 9am

Holy Thursday: Mass 7:30pm

Good Friday: Passion Mass 3pm

Holy Saturday: Easter Vigil 7:30pm

Easter Sunday: Masses at 7am, 9am and 10:30am.
 No Evening Mass

SCHOOL FEES

Term 1 school fees are now overdue. Please make payment promptly or ensure your Flexible Payment Plans are in place.

MERIT AWARDS

KB	Amelia, Josephine, Leah	4B	Gabriella, Caitlyn
KG	Maliyah, Ithayan	4G	Charlise; Mia
1B	Krishna, Thomas	5B	Clara, Anabella
1G	Katrina, Arkyn	5G	Myra, Hannah
2B	Elouise, Samyel	6B	Matilda, Ayii
2G	Katrina, Grace	6G	Christopher; Peter
3B	Logan, Erinn	CA	Caitlyn Gardner (4B); Charlotte (KG)
3G	Ojas, Stella	PE	No awards presented.

PENCIL SHARPENER DRIVE

On Monday we had a visit from Mayra Walsh. She came to share news of our sister school Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Zumalai, East Timor. There are 500 children at the school, that's about 100 more students than at our school. Mayra shared photos of the children at school in Zumalai and the kiosk across the road from the school. We learnt that the Timorese bought products in small individual packets because they cost a small amount. Mayra even brought some of these for us to look at. Now we have to guess what is in each packet, or we could ask Fr Martinho to read the labels for us. Mayra told us that the children didn't have access to good quality pencil sharpeners. So we thought a practical way we could support OLMC Zumalai would be for each child to donate a pencil sharpener that will be taken to them later in the year when our Carmelite priests next visit. Please send in a sharpener like the ones pictured to school for us to pass on.



STAFFING UPDATE

Mrs Wooding will be returning from Long Service Leave next term to teach Year 3 Gold. Miss Milone will continue teaching 3 Gold on every second Friday until the end of the term.

SPOTLIGHT ON RE

This week marks the 33rd anniversary of the Diocese of Parramatta. Pope John Paul II created the Diocese by proclamation of a Papal Bull addressed to the Archbishop of Sydney, Cardinal Clancy. The Diocese of Parramatta is home to 330,000 Catholics in 47 parishes and one parochial district. It covers over 4,000 square kilometres reaching from Dundas Valley, west to the Megalong Valley, south to Luddenham and north to Wiseman's Ferry. Our Diocese has a long history dating back to the founding of the colony of New South Wales. Mass was first said in Parramatta in 1820 and Father Therry established the colony's first Catholic school in Hunter Street Parramatta. Our Diocese remains one of the fastest growing and most diverse Diocese in the country.

WINTER SCHOOL UNIFORM

GIRLS

Tunic - School tartan tunic
Blouse - Lemon long sleeved blouse with Peter Pan collar
Tights or socks - Navy blue ankle or knee high socks or navy blue tights
Hair - Shoulder length or longer hair must be tied back. No hair colouring is permitted. Hair ties, ribbons and headbands must be yellow, navy blue or school uniform pattern.

BOYS

Trousers - Navy blue half elastic backed trousers
Shirt - School blue long sleeve shirt with school crest
Tie - striped school tie
Socks - Short grey school socks with blue/gold band
Hair - Neat and simple haircuts that are graduated. No undercuts, number ones, rat tails or hair colouring, or visible lines for example. Hair shouldn't be longer than their shirt collar (Principal discretion re extreme styles).

Jumper - Fleecy royal blue jumper or Wool/Nylon jumper - optional
Zip Jacket - Royal blue with school crest (also part of the sports tracksuit)

PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM

CONFIRMATION FORMS ARE DUE NOW! Parents, if your baptised child is in Year 5 or above, you are invited to enrol them for this sacramental process. **The Parent Information Evening for this is on 30 April at 7pm in the Parish Centre.** At least one parent of each child **MUST** attend this evening to organise workshops, photography, what to wear, etc. For more information, please email Paola at paola.olmc@gmail.com or phone 0414 947 799.

PRINCIPAL'S HOLIDAY CHALLENGE

As we head into our Autumn Holidays it's time for our Principal's Holiday Challenge. As always there is a reading component to the challenge and you can record your reading in the [survey](#). In the past the children have really enjoyed Bingo Challenges. This term we have a new Nature Detectives Bingo Challenge. We want you to get outside and notice the plants and wildlife in your local and backyard environment. Be sure to get your entries in by the end of the first week of Term Two. Drop in to the library to borrow a few extra books to read in the holiday.

E-SAFETY FOR PARENTS

Child safety online is a concern for all parents. Access to the internet and digital technologies provide many benefits however we must also be aware that this comes with a unique set of challenges. The [eSafety Commissioner](#) is an Australian Government body that provides support and information for parents about online safety. It covers topics such as online safety, social media, screen time and inappropriate content. The website also provides tips on how to tackle difficult conversation about the inappropriate content with your children. As parents it is important to set expectations around device use and regularly check your child's activity.

P&F NEWS

Happy Easter - Easter symbolizes the renewal of life. We wish you and your family the renewal of life, love, and happiness during this holiday break. May you feel the hope of new beginnings and happiness during this joyful Easter holiday. May the Lord bless your home with love, peace and unwavering faith this Easter.

A MASSIVE THANK YOU - Thank you to everyone who supported the Fete on Friday 22 March and the Fete Spin Off on Sunday. It was a wonderful sunny day and it was great to see so many people come along and take part. We are blessed with a generous community who have been supportive from the first request for donations to the last spin of the chocolate wheel. For the many ways you have helped to make both the fete and the fete spin off a success, we thank you.

God Day - We would like to thank Mrs Nolan for facilitating God Day for parents on Monday 8 April. We now have a greater appreciation of the process our children go through to create their reflections and the huge amount of work involved. Everyone enjoyed the opportunity to share and learn more about our faith, and we were very grateful to take a break from the hustle and bustle of everyday demands and to pause and prepare spiritually for Holy Week.

Mothers' Day Events - The fundraising committee are in the process of coordinating the annual Mothers' Day stall. The **Mothers' Day Stall** will be on **Thursday, 9 May**. More information will come home early next term. **Wednesday, 1 May** will be our **wrapping day**. We invite anyone with an hour or two to spare to come along after 9am and help us to prepare the gifts for the Mothers' Day Stall in the demountable behind Kindergarten. Morning tea is provided and toddlers are welcome.

Mothers, grandmothers and mother figures are invited to come and celebrate the gift of mothers with breakfast and Mass Friday 10 May at 8:00am. We look forward to seeing you there. We are looking for some fathers to come along and help host our Mothers' Day breakfast. If there are any dads who are able to help in the morning from 7:30 please contact Paula and Sam on 0406 515 782 or email: olmcpandf@gmail.com or call the school office.

GOD DAY 2019

On Monday we celebrated God Day to help us prepare of the great Feast of Easter. Each class and a group of parents broke open a Scripture passage, created a visual representation of the story and wrote a reflection using the language of surface, deep and transfer of the knowledge from the passage. On Thursday children and parents will have time to walk prayerfully around our spaces reflecting on our Easter stations. Children and parents were involved in a lot of conversation and specific language showing their deep understanding of the Easter story.

