

NEWSLETTER



7th December 2015 Term 4 Week 10

St Canice's Catholic Primary

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St Canice's Catholic Primary School
Katoomba 2014

Growth through love and learning

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Dear Parents and Carers

My Pilgrimage Journey

I have just returned from a recent pilgrimage with other school principals within the Diocese of Parramatta. Fr. Chris De Souza and 21 others journeyed on the 1st of November this year to go to the Holy Lands, Rome and Assisi. I didn't have any worries about the travel or the places we were to visit, but after a time in Jordan and especially Israel, I realised just how lucky we are here in Australia. We have the freedom to have our own religion and espouse the values of being a Christian. In the Holy Land, Christians are by far the minority. People asked me, "Is it a place worth visiting?" I would certainly say yes! I would recommend touring with a Pilgrimage group such as Harvest. At all times I felt safe but cautious.

Our first stop was in Jordan. We visited Mt Nebo where Moses saw the Promised Land.

There were many highlights of the pilgrimage. First it was to celebrate mass at Bethany beyond the Jordan. This was the site Jesus was baptised by John. It was a barren area, quiet and calming with the sound of birds in the bushes. The Jordan River (we would say more a large creek - 5-6m across) was where we celebrated Mass. A quiet reflection place to speak with God and ask the question "What do you want me to take from this Pilgrimage?" This is a question I am starting to grapple with now.

We travelled North across the "Allenby Bridge" into Israel, the Westbank. We waited for 2hrs at the checkpoint so that we could have a piece of paper stamped in lieu of putting a stamp in our passport. An Israeli stamp in the passport may pose difficulties in the future when travelling to some other countries.

Up to Tiberias we travelled through Jericho where we saw a sycamore tree. The next highlight was when we went to Nazareth and entered the Basilica of the Annunciation. This is where there is a traditional cave becoming the focal point of Mary's response "Let it be done unto me according to thy word". Outside of this Basilica we looked at our

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop Parish
Parish Priest Fr. Ted Tyler

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Mass Times

Friday: Katoomba 12 noon Mass

Saturday: Katoomba 9.30 am Mass **Saturday Vigil:** Leura 5pm Mass

Sunday: Wentworth Falls 8am Katoomba 10am Leura 5pm

Rosary: Monday Katoomba 8.30 am, Tuesday Leura 4.45pm,
Wednesday Wentworth Falls 9.30 am, Friday Katoomba 11.30 am.

Saturday Katoomba 9 am.

watches and realised it was 12 noon. Every day at noon at all catholic schools in the diocese of Parramatta, the students and staff stop and say The Angelus. Here we were where the words of the Angelus made the most meaning. So we stopped under a tree and said The Angelus together. It was a very meaningful and spiritual experience.

*The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.*

That afternoon we visited the site of the Wedding at Cana where Jesus performed his first miracle. I had actually imaged the jars used for the water / wine were large pottery ones. It is actually believed that these jars were carved from stone and measure larger than a cubic meter. A wedding in that area was celebrated by all the people in the district and may take days for invited guests to visit, not like our 4 – 5 hour ceremony and party we have nowadays.

We went to the Mount of Beatitudes where Jesus gave his message of Happiness, the Sermon on the Mount. Tabgha was the site of the multiplication of the loaves and fish and then off to the Church of the Primacy of Peter, where Jesus challenged Peter and each one of us “Do you love me?”

We had reflection time at the Sea of Galilee. The peace and tranquillity helped you stop and talk with God.

That night we were concerned that bad weather may stop us from experiencing something I was really looking forward to. But the next morning the sky had cleared and the winds calmed. We headed for a place to board a small vessel and sail out into the centre of the sea to celebrate Mass. Another experience difficult to describe other than amazing, inspirational and personally quite humbling.

Our Journey took us to Jerusalem and we stayed outside of the walls of Jerusalem near the “New Gate”. We then went to the Mount of Olives - the Church of the Pater Noster (Our Father). Around these walls were tiled translations of the Our Father in all languages.

On this day it was lightly raining and our journey down the Palm Sunday Road was a slow one as it was steep and the stones were slippery and awkward. We had a 30min opportunity to visit the Garden of Gethsemane. A time to reflect on our journey to date. This is the site where Jesus spent his last night praying. There are olive trees still in this garden believed to be the very trees that Jesus walked past as He prayed that night.

Inside the Church of Agony contains the stone which is believed to be upon which our Lord wept that night as He contemplated His crucifixion.

That afternoon we received a phone call saying that an opportunity for the next morning has opened for us, but it meant a 3:30am wake-up call. Eagerly we all agreed to this change in plan. We were privileged to celebrate mass at 5am in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The location of Station 14 “Jesus laid in the tomb”. It was the ante-room, The Chapel of the Angel. Our group celebrated mass in the same place where Jesus was prepared for burial and put into His tomb. 5am in the morning is always a quiet time, but this opportunity was even more peaceful. It was an emotional opportunity that will stay with our pilgrimage group forever. Fr. Chris used the marble stone from the tomb itself as his altar. To receive communion, we all in turn crawled into the Inner tomb, touched the piece of marble and received Jesus’ body and blood. There was a sort of quiet and peace within our group as we all knew we just experienced something very special. We then journeyed in the footsteps that Jesus would have walked carrying His cross. The Stations of the Cross usually is a very busy time for pilgrimage groups as it is something everyone wants to experience, but at 6am it was quite quiet and therefore meaningful for us. I remember clearly being at the 5th Station - Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus carry the cross. I started to ask myself some questions: – What do I do? What can I do? How can I carry the cross for Jesus? How does Jesus carry the cross for me?

Our group went through the guarded walls of Bethlehem. With passport in hand we entered without any issues. Our goal was to visit the Church of the Nativity, the birth place of Jesus. It was extremely busy at the church. There were many pilgrims wanting to enter the church and there were a significant number of local parishioners leaving their Sunday mass. Imagine your parish church is the place where Jesus was born? After an hour of waiting we entered the Church through the Door of Humility. Down some steep stairs to the area believed to be the cave/stable where Jesus was born. A silver star on the marble floor marks the very spot where Christ was born. The star’s inscription reads in Latin “Hic de Virgine Maria Jesus Christus Natus Est”, (Here of the Virgin Mary Jesus Christ was born). The centre of the star you can put your hand through and touch the actual earth.

From Israel we travelled to Rome, then Assisi and finally home. It was an experience I will remember forever. When I hear a Gospel reading I will be able to visualise the location and therefore better appreciate the words.

Thank you to the Diocese and St Canice’s for supporting me in this opportunity.

Totem Ceremony

This afternoon the whole school will be involved in a Totem Ceremony with Jacinta Tobin, Aunty Carol Cooper. Our school has the special honour and responsibility of looking after the Three Sisters.

This Weeks Special Events

Christmas Stall

Tomorrow morning Sister Colleen will be running the Christmas Gift stall from 8:15 in the morning. All gifts will be ranging from \$1 to about \$8.

Christmas Stall

Tomorrow Tuesday 8th December

from 8.15am

Gifts and Decorations

from \$1 to \$8

Dinosaur Museum

Tomorrow the Kinders will be changing their classroom into a DINOSAUR Museum. Parents are invited from 9:00 – 9:30am or after 2:15pm.

“C” Factor Talent

On Wednesday 9th from 1:20pm there will be the “C” Factor (St Canice’s version of the X Factor) Talent Show. There will be 25 items ranging from singing and dancing to a comedy routine. All parents are welcome

Musical Concert

On Thursday 10th there will be a show showcasing the musical talents at the school. It will start at 1pm.

Whole School End of Year Mass

On Friday there will be the whole school end of the Year Mass from Midday. All parents are invited.

School Disco

On Friday evening from 6pm – 8pm it will be the school disco. All children are asked to bring a children’s gift to put into the sleigh so that we can give this to less fortunate children in our community.

Santa’s Workshop

This Sunday will be the Santa Workshop from 11.30am till 4pm. Please come along and enjoy making a present for Christmas.

Monthly Family Mass

St Canice’s Church are organising a Family Mass on Sunday 13th December at 10 am. All families are welcome to attend this special celebration. Each month there will be a special family blessing followed by a sausage sizzle or morning tea.



Financial Transactions at the Office

Notice is given that the last day for financial transactions at the Office will be this Wednesday 9th December.

Uniform Pick up

Please note that all orders for Kinder 2016 and any other school Uniform orders need to be collected and paid by this Wednesday 9th December.



Swimming Carnival 2016

Notes have been sent home regarding the Swimming Carnival in 2016. The Carnival will be held on Wednesday 3rd February (Week 2) after school from 3.30pm. Please return the return slip by Wednesday 16th December.

Classes for 2016

Next year the teachers at St Canice’s will remain the same with some moving classes.

Kindergarten: Mrs van der Walle (Mon - Thur)
Mrs Garrett (Fri)

Year One: Ms Clarke

Year Two: Mrs Debieen (Mon - Wed)
Ms Gillespie (Thur, Fri)

Year Three: Mrs Byrnes

Year Four: Ms Magann (Mon - Thur)
Ms Morley (Fri)

S3B: Miss Bennett (Mon-Wed, Fri)
Ms Morley (Thur)

S3W: Ms Krawczyk

The other staff throughout the school will remain the same as 2015

Missing Guided Readers

So far there are **50 GUIDED READERS MISSING !!!**

One of the methods we use to teach your child to read is by using **GUIDED READERS**. In a group of 4 or 5, each student has the same text. The teacher listens to each one read each day, and teaches the skills & strategies using a shared text.

Losing 50 guided Readers means that there is now **43 SETS OF GUIDED READERS** with less than 4/5 books, which then reduces the number of resources we have to teach at that level.

The cost of each book is \$12 and they have to be purchased in sets of 6! We send these books home *on trust*, unlike Library books which go out on the student’s name.

We take our job of teaching reading seriously and value each book we have purchased. A replacement of these 50 books (if we could just replace the one) would total \$600. We just don’t have that much money each year just to replace what we have and not buy new books for our Library.

PLEASE SEND BACK ANY BOOK you have found at home, whether you get a reminder or not.

MISSING GUIDED READERS 2015

Level 1

toys with wheel	4missing
Asleep	5m
Noisy toys	4m
Pedal power	4m

Level 2

On the seashore	1m
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Level 3

Sally's new shoes	1m
Where is Patch?	1m

Level 4

Fish for Dinner	1m
Kids in the Kitchen	1m
Sausages	1m

Level 5

Looking for Fang	6m
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Level 6

I Feel Cold	5m
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Level 7

Where is That Frog?	1m
My Tree	1m

Level 9

Mighty Meg at the Beach	1m
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Level 10

Big Ships need Tugboats	1m
Max	1m

Level 10

Great Day Out	1 m
The wobbly tooth	2 m

Level 11

Let's Eat	1m
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Level 12

Indians & Red spots	2m
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Level 13

Animals that Build	4m
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Level 14

Sea otters and the Kelp Forest	1m
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Level 15

Bikes & Broomsticks	4m
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Level 17

Don't be silly, Simon	1m
The Leaping Lions	1m

Level 17

Kate, Who Was Always Late	4 m
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Level 18

Ice Swimmers	1m
Amazing Mudskippers	1m
Ice-Cream	1m

Level 19

Polar Bears	1m
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Level 20

The dinosaur race	1m
Some snakes	1m

Level 21

No Strings Puppet Theatre Presents.....	1m
Washing up	1 m

Level 22

Billy Goat Gruff & the Baby Troll	1 m
Six things to make	1 m

Level 24

Marathon Diary	1m
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Level 25

Accident on the Bike Track	1m
The rice Pudding Riot	2m

Level 26

Dino Info	1m
The Middle of Nowhere	4m
Saving Wild Wolves	1m

Level 27

Chinese New Year	1m
Mickey Maloney Spy	1 m

Level 28

The Jolly Green Monster	1 m
Clumsy Clinton	1m
Tracey and the sun	1m

Level 29

Incredible Underground Homes	1m
The Haunted House	1m
The Wild Caves	1m

Level 30

Lost In Space	1m
Sadako and the Thousand Cranes	1m

Music News

Two very exciting events are coming up soon in Music at St Canice's

St Canice's Musical Concert

ON Thursday 10th December at 1.30pm all St Canice's students will participate in our annual Music extravaganza. Parents and Friends are very welcome to join us watching the performance of our talented St Canice's musicians

Hope to see you

there.



Blackheath Community Carols

The students from St Canice's are welcome to come and join me and students from Our Lady of the Nativity Lawson and Mt Victoria Public Schools to perform at the Blackheath Community Carols. The students will sing "Away in a Manger" and "Junkanoo / Time to Sing Noel". If you would like your child to participate, the details are as follows:

Blackheath Community Carols

Sunday 13th December 5.30 pm—7pm

(Meet Ms Frazer outside the hall at 4.45pm for a 5.30 start)

Please wear brightly coloured clothing

There will be family activities in the park next to the hall from 3.30pm including Face Painting, Sausage Sizzle, Santa Visit and other kids activities, so why not make an afternoon of it. Hope you can make it.

Ms Frazer





School Calendar

December

Week 10

Tuesday	8th	Christmas Stall Student Banking Gymnastics Dinosaur Museum	8.15am 9am & 2.15pm
Wednesday	9th	Uniform Shop Open C Factor Talent Show Reports Go Home	1pm
Thursday	10th	Musical Concert	1pm
Friday	11th	My School Lunch Box Prayer Assembly Year 1 Whole School Mass Final CSE School Disco	8.45am 12noon 3pm 6pm
Sunday	13th	St Canice's Santa's Workshop Blackheath Community Carols	11.30am 5.30pm

Week 11

Monday	14th	My School Lunch Box	
Tuesday	15th	Student Banking Graduation Mass	5.30 pm
Wednesday	16th	Last Day of 2015 for students	
Thursday	17th	Staff Development Day	
Friday	18th	Staff Development Day	

Uniform for Sale

Boys Size 6 & 8
 2 Summer Shirts
 2 Summer Navy Shorts
 2 Navy Winter Pants
 2 Fleecy Jackets
 1 Woollen Jumper
 1 Sports Shirt
 1 Sports Shorts
 1 Hat
 \$180 for the lot
 Phone Kylie 0418 300 656

**Jackaroo Ranch
 Horse Riding
 Summer School Holiday
 Riding Camps**



Pre Christmas Camps
From 6th—16th December. Come anytime
from 3 days to 10 day stays.

January 2016
1st Week Saturday 2nd January—
Saturday 9th January (am arrival)
2nd Week Saturday 9th January—
Sunday 17th January (pm arrival)

These camps are for “horse-mad” children
aged 6 to 16 years.
Call Pattie Hudson 63 377 173
(nights are best)

Monday 25th January	School Holiday
Tuesday 26th January	Australia Day Public Holiday
Wednesday 27th January	Staff Development Day
Thursday 28th January	First Day Term 1 Years 2—6 Kinder and Year 1 Interviews and As- sessments
Friday 29th January	Kinder and Year 1 Interviews and As- sessments
Monday 1st February	K—6 all day

Fancy Dress Christmas

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Disco

- Prizes will be presented to the best fancy dress costumes so get creative!
- There are also hidden lucky-dip gold tickets offering extra prizes waiting to be won!
- There will be lots of fun things available to purchase at the Disco so please remember that this is a **CASH ONLY** event!



Children are encouraged to bring an UNWRAPPED gift for Santa to give to those less fortunate (to be donated to Vinnie's by the school).

The following items will be available for purchase during the Christmas disco:			
Lucky dip	\$1.00	Cupcakes	\$1.00
Christmas tattoo (temporary)	\$1.00	Hotdogs	\$3.00
Jellybean count	x1 guess for 50c or x3 guesses for \$1.00	Freddo Frogs	\$1.00
Lollie bags	\$1.00	Bottled water (large)	\$2.00
Popcorn bags	\$1.00	Poppers/small water bottles	\$1.50
4 Glow sticks	\$2.00	Loot bags or Meal Packs	\$5.00

PLEASE NOTE, UPON ARRIVAL AT THE DISCO:

- **IF YOU HAVE PRE-PURCHASED YOUR DISCO ENTRY/COMBO DEAL PLEASE REGISTER AT THE FRONT DESK.**
- **IF YOU HAVE PRE-PURCHASED A MEAL PACK YOU WILL BE GIVEN A MEAL TICKET TO REDEEM AT THE CANTEEN.**
- **IF YOU HAVE PRE-PURCHASED A LOOT BAG PLEASE REGISTER AT THE FRONT DESK FOR COLLECTION.**

DISCO ENTRY, LOOT BAGS AND MEAL PACKS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SALE ON THE DISCO NIGHT FOR \$5 EACH.

THE DISCOUNTED COMBO DEAL WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE.

This fundraising event is being organised and run by St Canice's Parent Body Committee. It has the support and endorsement of St Canice's Principal, Mr Mark Geerligns.

Christmas-gift-making Workshop for Kids!

Affordable gift-making activities (from \$1.50 to \$15)

- ★ Build a birdhouse
- ★ Decorate a mug
- ★ Make earrings
- ★ Make candy cane reindeers



- ★ Make peppermint sugar scrub ...
- ★ And more!
- ★ Christmas-themed photo booth

FREE
ENTRY

SANTA'S WORKSHOP

FREE gift wrapping
included!

Christmas Cafe for parents

QUALITY
GIFTS

Part of the proceeds goes to Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Proudly
supported by



Sunday 13 December, 12–4 pm
St Canice's Church Hall, 158 Katoomba St, Katoomba

Volunteers Needed!

Can you help! (It will be appreciated)

We need a hand with the following at Santa's Workshop on Sunday 13th Dec from 11.30—4pm (for any amount of time you can spare)

- * Supervising craft tables
- * Helping with birdhouse making
- * Set up and clean up
- * Gift wrapping station
- * Photobooth (taking photos for people, with their cameras)

Sign Up At The School Office



SUMMER KIDS' CAMPS

THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS GIFT

- ✓ **New friendships** ✓ **Fun**
- ✓ **Great value** ✓ **Safe**

Summer is all about having FUN in the great outdoors. There is no better way for kids to jam-pack their school holidays with adventure and excitement than by attending a Sport and Recreation Kids' Camp.

Choose from day programs and residential camps to Duke of Edinburgh's Award journeys. Activities include raft building, mountain biking, flying fox, giant swing, cookouts and more. With so many programs on offer, you'll be sure to find a camp your kids will love.

Kids' day camps start from \$50. Residential camps include 24-hour supervision, accommodation, meals and activities, and many offer supervised transport to and from Central Station, Sydney.



sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps | 13 13 02
fb.com/nswsportandrecreation



Office
of Sport
and Recreation



GREENWOOD

EARLY EDUCATION CENTRES

Greenwood Katoomba is Opening Soon!!

LEADERS IN EARLY EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AGED 0-6 YEARS

Greenwood Katoomba will offer your child a safe and stimulating environment to be inspired through play based learning. The Greenwood Pre-Kindergarten Program is designed to prepare your child for lifelong learning and a seamless transition into Kindergarten. Our six unique G programs encourage every child to develop social & emotional skills, numeracy & literacy, creative arts, music & language, physical development and health, science and technology and an awareness of the world.



Why Greenwood?

- Proven Pre Kinder Program
- Extended hours from 7am - 6:30pm
- Menu designed by our leading Paediatric Dietitian and Nutritionist
- All meals prepared daily by our qualified Chef
- Custom built art, music and yoga studio
- Full sensory learning environments
- Dedicated yoga and sports coach
- Bonjour Babies, our French Language Program
- All nappies and wipes provided & toilet training assistance
- Online portal to your child's portfolio & progress



🌱 BOOK NOW FOR A TOUR 🌱

LIMITED PLACES AVAILABLE call 1300 947 336 or visit greenwood.com.au

St Canices Church

Family Christmas Party

Visit from Santa
and Fun

"A Christmas Carol"
Music play

&

Songs

Lucky Door Prize

Gifts for Children

Saturday Dec 12th

12-2pm

\$10 Adults, \$2 Children, \$20 Families

All Welcome

FAMILY CHRISTMAS LUNCH

FREE BBQ WITH

MOTHER CHRISTMAS

**ALL CHILDREN WITH PARENTS,
GRANDPARENTS & CAREGIVERS WELCOME**

Celebrate the coming holidays with a
delicious and nutritious lunch cooked
& served by someone else.
Connect with other parents while your
kids enjoy fun activities with MOC's
mobile minders.

DATE: 17 Thursday December

TIME: Midday till 2-ish

PLACE: 10 Station Street Katoomba

CONTACT: jodie@knoinc.org.au - 4782 1117

