



# St Agnes Catholic High School

ph: 8882 0700 fax: 8882 0790

email: [stagnes@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stagnes@parra.catholic.edu.au)

to truth through love

SCHOOL WEBSITE:  
[www.stagnesrootyhill.catholic.edu.au](http://www.stagnesrootyhill.catholic.edu.au)

## Diary Dates

### 9 April

Chess Tournament

### 13 April

Yr 8 Brainstorm  
Term 1 Concludes

### 30 April

Term 2 Commences  
Anzac Day Service

### 1 May

Elective Art Excursion -  
Cockatoo Island

### 2 May

Year 7 Vaccinations

### 2-4 May

Yr 10 Retreat

### 8 May

Yr 10 Passover  
Demonstration

### 9 May

Athletics Carnival

11 May

Mothers day Liturgy  
Mums welcome 8.30am

**FOLLOW OUR  
EVENTS  
ON GOOGLE  
CALENDAR**

6 April 2018

### New horizons....endless possibilities

This month a report was released that shows only 1 in 4 students enter university via an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Entrance Rank) pathway. At St Agnes, we are really excited by this finding and it reaffirms our position that our Stage 6 students will have access to multiple pathways and opportunities. We are committed to providing students with more choice about the pathway they want to take through senior school. Some of these may look like certificate or diploma credentials, accelerated completion of some of the HSC subjects, or other flexible, online and blended ways of finishing compulsory schooling with a meaningful credential or qualification. The school has begun exploring these options with a range of partners. St Agnes is already a highly respected and successful high school; the future for our students is one of endless possibilities.

### Staff changes from Term 2

Our Teaching and Learning Coordinator: Technology, Mr Usman Khan, has been seconded as a project officer to Parramatta Catholic Education Office. This is a reflection of his capacity and skills as a leader and technician. Usman has ensured that St Agnes is a technology rich school and that we are always at the cutting edge of new technologies. While he will be sorely missed, we are grateful for his legacy and know the system will benefit from his expertise. Usman will rejoin St Agnes at the completion of his tenure.

This move has resulted in a number of staff changes for the remainder of 2018:

Learning and Teaching Coordinator: Technology - Mr Laurence DeMartin

Learning and Teaching Coordinator: Curriculum - Mr Gavin Hilder

Mathematics Coordinator - Mr Christopher Shanahan

Congratulations to each leader.

Lastly, we farewell Mrs Jane Rutkin who is moving to the south coast with her family. Jane has made a significant contribution to the growth of our Literacy agenda. We are indebted to her for her commitment and expertise. She leaves us stronger in this essential domain and we wish her all the very best for this next stage in her life.

*Lisa-Maree Browning*

*Principal*



**St Agnes  
Catholic High School**  
Evans Road  
Rooty Hill  
Ph: 02 8882 0700  
Fax: 02 8882 0790

**St Clare's  
Catholic High School**  
175 Buckwell Drive  
Hassall Grove  
Ph: 02 9835 2466  
Fax: 02 9835 2539

**Loyola Senior  
High School**  
91 North Parade  
Mt Druitt  
Ph: 02 9832 4455  
Fax: 02 9832 1839

*a diverse  
community  
learning  
together*

## *From the Assistant Principal*

### **Cyberbullying**

With increasing time spent online, you might be worried about your child and cyberbullying. Understanding cyberbullying can help you to support them to stay safe online.

Conflict between young people is a normal part of growing up, cyberbullying is not. You may have heard how harmful cyberbullying is but you may feel like you don't really understand it.

- Cyberbullying is bullying that uses electronic means like the internet or mobile phones to aggressively and intentionally harm someone
- Cyberbullying can include name calling, abusive comments, spreading rumours, threats of physical harm, being ignored or excluded, having opinions slammed, online impersonation, being sent rude or upsetting images, or having personal information or images sent or shared with others
- Cyberbullying is most common in late primary school and early high school and up to half of all young people have experienced it

Cyberbullying can be difficult for parents to detect because it's covert. Here are some things you might notice your child doing if they're being cyberbullied.

- Socialising less with friends and family
- Reducing time online or being jumpy when getting text or emails
- Avoiding school and dropping out of sports and other activities
- Losing self-esteem or confidence
- Feeling anxious, sad, embarrassed, angry or physically sick
- Changing moods, behaviour, thoughts about self-harm

Some students might be tricked into inviting cyberbullying as it is common for students to consent to a TBH. This stands for To Be Honest and is an open invitation for other young people to say vile things about someone under the guise of 'being honest'. In addition, many of the contributors to this 'honesty opportunity' are anonymous.

### **What can you do?**

- Take the time to talk to them.
- Be open to listening and understanding their experience of cyberbullying.
- Take the cyberbullying seriously
- Help them identify what cyberbullying is
- Find out details about the cyberbullying
- Teach them that cyberbullying is never ok
- Reassure them that they're loved
- Find out how your child has reacted to it
- Teach them about power dynamics that underlie bullying behaviour
- Work together to figure out ways they can take back power from the 'bully'
- Involve them in decision making at home to increase their sense of power and control
- Role model calmly managing your own emotions
- Create opportunities to expand their support friendships
- Support them to speak to another trusted adult or counsellor
- Advise them to avoid opening emails or responding to cyberbullies
- Respect that they may not want to limit online access as this can seem like a punishment and lead to greater social isolation

*Ken Wolffe*



# From the Teaching & Learning Coordinator: Curriculum

## Term One Interim Reports

Term One Interim Reports will be issued in the last week of term and this is a good opportunity for students to reflect on how they have begun the 2018 academic year. These reports provide feedback to both students and parents on the areas of classwork, homework, application and conduct in class. It is important that students take on board the feedback given to them by their teachers and continually seek ways to improve and strive to do their personal best in every subject.

Semester One reports will be issued at the end of Term Two, with parent-teacher interviews also to be held during this time. These reports will contain specific subject information, indicating the levels to which course outcomes have been achieved, as well as overall course grades. They will provide a summary of each student's academic progress for the first half of the year.

## Stage 6 Pathways for 2019

Planning is well underway for our first Year 11 cohort in 2019. St Agnes will be offering a comprehensive curriculum that provides a personalised learning journey for students. There will be a variety of pathways on offer to best suit student's individual needs. Students will have the choice to obtain a HSC along with an ATAR leading to direct entrance to university, or a HSC with a Non-ATAR, allowing them to pursue interests in Vocational Education and Training Courses (VET) or TAFE courses.

Also available to students will be externally delivered VET Courses know as EVET, the study of languages via The NSW School of Languages, Distance Education, School Based Traineeships, and the Whitehouse Institute of Design.

Laurence De Martin

# From the Religious Education

## Journey to the Cross

*"Return to me with your whole heart" (Joel 2:12)*

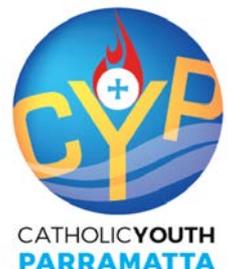
To begin our Holy Week journey, Rhiannon Soans (10.7), Kiera Everingham (10.2), Chanel Saliba (10.7) with Mr Sadsad and Ms Raad along with many schools in the Parramatta Diocese joined the Palm Sunday procession from Parramatta Town Hall to the St Patrick's Cathedral. Waving our school flag high with pride, we began the procession with a palm blessing from Bishop Vincent and proceeded to walk through Church street. Members of the public stopped to see what was going on as we became witnesses to the coming of Jesus to the people, to Jerusalem. The Palm Sunday Mass was a beautiful Eucharistic celebration, retelling the Passion story and preparing our hearts for the solemnity of the Passion story. A line from the song 'Remembrance' by Matt Maher sums up the very essence of how Christ brings us all into communion, through his love and sacrifice for each and every one of us:

*By Your mercy, we come to Your table  
By Your grace, You are making us faithful*

*Lord, we remember You  
And remembrance leads us to worship  
And as we worship You  
Our worship leads to communion  
We respond to Your invitation, we remember You*

On Holy Thursday, St Agnes celebrated the Easter story through the Journey to the Cross Passion Play. Prior to the performance Mrs Millwood and Ms Green along with 30 cast members practiced tirelessly in preparation for this liturgical celebration. Our school gathered in the back grass area to pray together and remember the greatest love story ever told, the story of our King who defeated death and made way for life with no end.

I'd like to congratulate all of our Passion play cast members, Mrs Millwood (Drama teacher), Ms Green (Costumes and props), Ms Carlin, Ms Raad and Ms Thauvette (Digital Media), Mrs Devine



(Narrator) and the Digital Communications Portfolio team for the wonderful photos taken from the day.

### ***Journey to the Cross Cast Members 2018***

Jesus	Farida Zaheer (9.8)
Mary	Christina Abi Chemouni (9.1)
Mary Magdelene	Nera Pulido (10.6)
Joseph of Arimathea	Andrew Freeman (10.3)
Nicodemus	Joshua Fuamatu (10.3)
Simon of Cyrene	Lachlan Watson (10.8)
Veronica	Veronica Demo (9.3)
Pontius Pilate	Priyanshi Sharma (10.7)
Sanhedrin - High Priests	Rance Caperlac (9.2) Jack Youhanna (10.8) Chrystal Aquilizan (9.1)
Barabas	Andrew Freeman (10.3)
Criminals crucified next to Jesus	Joel Lack (8.5) Alex Lind (10.5)
Roman Soldiers	Brooke Martin (9.5) Mani Shakibaei Shahadati (7.8) Emmanuel Alexiou (10.1) Aleksandra Favor (9.3) Andy Yassine (10.8)
Disciples	David Miguel (7.6) Ajak Majok (8.5) Krish Patel (7.7) Gabriella Lopus (7.5) Beatrix Favor (7.3)
Townspeople	Mathushika Mahendran (8.5) Mikhaila Ladines (9.4) Kylah King (10.4) Ida Laura Ioane (9.4) Reese Obedoza (9.5) Camille Aquilizan (7.1)
Narrators	Jonathan Israel Mrs Melissa Devine Micah Romero Daniel Villanueva

On Good Friday morning, the Journey to the Cross cast led the Stations of the Cross at St Aidan's Parish Rooty Hill. The dedication and service of these students involved showed the St Agnes spirit of giving back to our community. Fr Alan Layt, Parish Priest and Mrs Carmen Cassar, Parishioner and Teaching Educator in Mission from the Catholic Education Office Diocese of Parramatta congratulated our students on their commitment and delivery, and a parishioner made the comment "The students made the Stations of the Cross reflection that much more meaningful this year. I hope to see them do this again next year". Congratulations once again to the students involved in this year's Passion Play, for sharing our talents and gifts to bring our community to prayer and reflection this Easter. It makes me very proud and happy to work in this school with very generous students of their time for others.



## St Agnes Celebrate Harmony Day & Project Compassion

Over the past 6 weeks, we've been doing our part in bringing awareness of the wonderful work of Caritas Australia.

Each House (Chisholm, Francis, MacKillop and Xavier) is represented as a village, whose aim is to buy as many goats as they can. Goats can provide a constant supply of income and nutritious food for a family through their quality milk, cheese and meat. One goat costs \$50, so for every \$50 earned by each House more goats will be raised for the House village. As promised, an update of our Goat Challenge tally will be shared with you in the newsletter. **The tally as of the end of Lent is:**

- Francis: \$521.50 (10 goats)
- MacKillop: \$503.40 (10 goats)
- Xavier: \$367.30 (7 goats)
- Chisholm: \$301.80 (6 goats)
- **ST AGNES TOTAL = \$1694.00 (33 goats)**

**For your calendar:** Next Wednesday, 11th April, St Agnes will be celebrating Harmony Day and formally known as Hero Day to continue to raise money for Caritas Australia. You are warmly invited to attend our Multicultural Day performances from 11:00-12:30pm. The House leaders will also be selling food over recess and lunch to give it their last big push to raise as much money as they can!

As we near the end of our Caritas project with only 2 weeks to go, let us continue to do our small part in donating for a wonderful cause that changes the lives of those in need. Can you spare your soft drink today? Donate this to Caritas.

## World Youth Day - Panama 2019

"I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me according to Your Word" (Lk 1:38)

(Taken from the WYD web site <http://worldyouthday.com/about-wyd>)

The Diocese of Parramatta have officially launched WYD Panama 2019 at the Palm Sunday celebrations. As a school, we have started the process of asking our Year 10 students to express their interest to be pilgrims for the next WYD in Panama. For our parents who have shown an interest for their son/daughter to attend WYD, the following points have been communicated by the Diocese of Parramatta:

- Once approved by the school, all chosen student pilgrims will be required to give a \$500 deposit. The date will be communicated to parents as soon as possible.
- All staff and student pilgrims are expected to attend all the WYD Formation Sessions in Term 3.
- Pilgrims are required to pay 1/3 of the total costings of WYD, with another 2/3 supported by the school. Student pilgrims are encouraged to actively seek ways to find donations to cover their contribution through creative ways.
- All student and staff pilgrims from each school are required to actively sell raffle tickets for \$2 each with wonderful prizes to be won! The money raised as a school from this raffle will go towards the school contribution. The WYD Raffle will be drawn in the Lifted Live event in October this year.

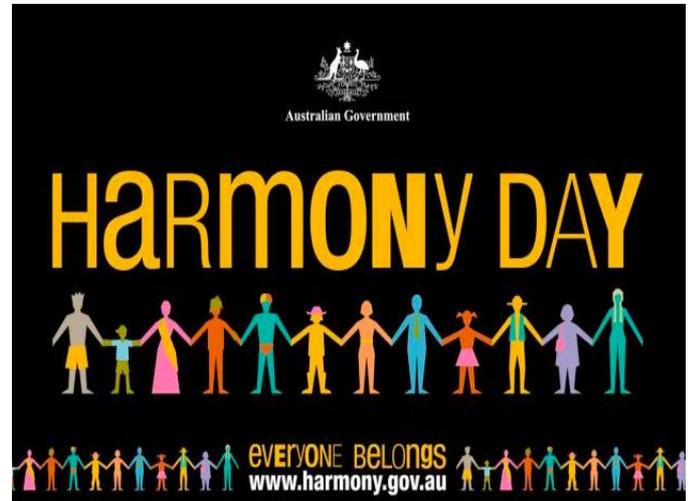
For your information, have a look at the resources below and do not hesitate to contact our St Agnes WYD Group Leaders - Mr Sadsad and myself for any information. I will keep you informed each week of the WYD updates. Thank you for your support to the many formation opportunities provided at St. Agnes.

**World Youth Day:** <http://worldyouthday.com/>

**Catholic Youth Parramatta: WYD Panama Video** - <https://parracatholic.org/wyd>



**PROJECT COMPASSION**  
FOR A JUST FUTURE





**CHRIST  
CATHOLIC  
COLLEGE  
COMMUNITY  
OF SCHOOL**

**St Agnes  
Catholic High School**  
Evans Road  
Rooty Hill  
Ph: 02 8882 0700  
Fax: 02 8882 0790

**St Clare's  
Catholic High School**  
175 Buckwell Drive  
Hassall Grove  
Ph: 02 9835 2466  
Fax: 02 9835 2539

**Loyola Senior  
High School**  
91 North Parade  
Mt Druitt  
Ph: 02 9832 4455  
Fax: 02 9832 1839

**a diverse  
community  
learning  
together**

## HELP 'GREEN' ST AGNES

Every Blacktown Council resident is allocated 2 free trees from Blacktown City Council. Most residents don't take this offer up. If this is you, the opportunity has risen that you can donate them to our school. We will use your tree allocation to replenish our gardens around the school. Please email [stagnes@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:stagnes@parra.catholic.edu.au) with the details below.

I, (your name) \_\_\_\_\_

of (address) \_\_\_\_\_

have **NOT** collected my 2 free plants from Blacktown Council this financial year and would like to donate them to St Agnes Catholic High School for planting on school grounds.

Don't forget to sign and date your request.

Nominate us and our gardens will thank you.



16 March 2018  
Friday of the Fourth Week of Lent

Dear Students,

The United Nations has designated 15 May 2018 as International Family Day.

Here in our diocese, we have families of every kind: nuclear or extended families; single-parent families; blended families and so on.

From time to time families experience difficulties. It may be bereavement, separation, illness, financial difficulties, problem gambling, disabilities, pregnancy-related issues. Whatever it is, help is at hand.

In our diocese, we have a group called CatholicCare who offer help to families through individual and family counselling, relationship counselling, financial and problem gambling, services for the ages, services through NDIS for persons with a disability, accommodation and help for young women who are pregnant and at risk of homelessness, refugee and settlement services.

Every year as part of our celebration of International Family Day, every school will have a fund-raiser and the money will be sent to CatholicCare to help them help our families. Your school will decide the type of fund-raiser you will have and on what date it will be held and I encourage you to participate fully in order to help us meet the urgent needs of some of our families.

Yours sincerely in Christ,

**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv**  
Bishop of Parramatta

**Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL**  
Bishop of Parramatta

Level 2, 12 Victoria Rd, Parramatta NSW 2150 | PO Box 3066, North Parramatta, NSW 1750  
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**OUR  
PARISH  
SCHOOLS**

*St Aidan's*  
9 Adelaide Street  
Rooty Hill  
Ph: 02 9625 8404

*Sacred Heart*  
23 Nelson Street  
Mt Druitt South  
Ph: 02 9625 8847

*Holy Family*  
254 Luxford Road  
Emerton  
Ph: 02 9628 7272

*St John Vianney's*  
17 Cameron Street  
Doonside  
Ph: 02 9622 3426

A SPECIAL DAY FOR PARENTS  
ACROSS PARRAMATTA CATHOLIC  
SCHOOLS

**FREE  
DAY SPA  
FOR THE  
SOUL**

LAUGH  
PRAY  
REFLECT

TAKE TIME  
OUT FOR  
YOURSELF

Bring a friend!

**BOOK NOW!  
LIMITED SPACES  
AVAILABLE**

Thursday 3rd May  
9:30am-2 pm

MORNING TEA AND  
LUNCH INCLUDED

Enquire and register  
by 12 April with Tania  
Melki via email:  
tmelki@parra.catholic.edu.au  
Ph: 0429375226

The Franciscan Shrine of  
The Holy Innocents  
8 Greyfriar Place Kellyville

SPONSORED BY THE  
CATHOLIC EDUCATION DIOCESE PARRAMATTA (CEDP)

every learner  
every day

When is sick too sick for school

If I am sick please call the school or write me a note  
to let the school know why I am not at school.

Send me to school if ...

- I have the symptoms of food or hayfever
- I have a sprain, strain or pain and I can function (walk, talk and eat)
- If I have asthma, diabetes, epilepsy etc. (school personnel are trained to manage my condition, link to the school about my health plan)
- I haven't vomited or had diarrhoea for 24 hours

Keep me home if ...

- I have a temperature higher than 37 degrees
- I am vomiting or have diarrhoea
- My eyes are red, and crusty (conjunctivitis)
- I have influenza (flu), conjunctivitis, fever, sore throat, cough, muscle aches and headaches
- I have the symptoms of an infectious disease. Go to NSW Health #2 of infectious diseases for more information

A day here or there doesn't seem like much but absences  
add up 2 days a month adds up to 4 weeks a year /  
20 days a year which is over one year of lost learning.

**EVERY DAY COUNTS**

every learner  
every day

**EASTERN CREEK PIONEERS NETBALL CLUB INC.**

*How long  
has it been girls?*

back to  
netball

**PLAYER REGISTRATION DAYS  
PLAYERS REQUIRED  
UNDER 6'S TO SENIORS**

I netball

**DATE 10<sup>TH</sup> & 17<sup>TH</sup> OF FEBRUARY 2018**

**TIME 4PM- 6PM**

**LOCATION AT OUR NETBALL COURTS  
MORREAU RESERVE CHURCH RD ROOTY HILL**

**PLEASE CONTACT  
ROBERT FITZGERALD PRESIDENT  
0403 677 519**

**SONIA MCWHIRTER REGISTRAR  
0425213080**

**DON'T FORGET THE ACTIVE KID PROGRAM**

