



# OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS Catholic Primary School

*“Under Your Protection “*



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**No. 8 24th March 2010 (Week 9 Term 1)**

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 9.15am

Saturday Vigil: 6.00 pm

Sunday 8.00 am, 10.00 am & 6.00 pm  
Weekday Masses OLHC Church

Thursday 7.00 am (Convent)

Tuesday & Friday 12.15 pm

Wednesday 9.15am

## From the Principal

**No occupation should withdraw our minds from God.  
Our whole life should be a continual act of prayer and  
praise.**

*Catherine McAuley*

This is a quotation taken from the writings of Catherine McAuley, the founder of the Sisters of Mercy. This is a huge challenge in today's secular world!

My interpretation of this quote, for our lives today, is that we are called as those baptised in Christ to treat others with respect, compassion and love. We are reminded of the words of Jesus when he was questioned about the greatest of the commandments. He reminded his disciples to *love one another as I have loved you*.

Each time we attend Mass or a Liturgy Father reminds us to: *Go in peace to love and serve the Lord*. We are continually called to bring the love, peace and forgiveness into our world. Catherine McAuley is reminding us that we cannot separate our beliefs and values from our actions, regardless of the situation we find ourselves in. Of course God loves us and is always ready to forgive us when we do not follow the example of Jesus. We remember that we are in a *relationship* with God and God sees the person that we are, rather than our actions or the things we have done wrong.

As we continue through the last days of this Lenten Season may our preparations be focused on preparing for the death and resurrection of Jesus. We pray that we are ready to welcome Jesus into our hearts this Easter.

## First Reconciliation

Congratulations to all the children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation over the weekend. The children entered into the liturgy reverently and peacefully. Congratulations also to the families of these children for preparing their child as they continue their spiritual and Sacramental journey.



As we prepare for the great celebration of Jesus' death and resurrection this Easter I was struck by a quote that I read in the booklet from the celebration:  
*Being forgiven in the Sacrament of Reconciliation is like being hugged by God.*

To me, that is a beautiful image of God giving us a big, warm, comforting hug. I see this as a delightful and inviting image of the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

## Open Day

Thank you to everyone who was able to attend our Open Day last Friday. This morning was a fantastic demonstration of the community spirit that exists here, as well as the value that you place on your child's school work and their achievements.

I saw many delighted faces as children showed their parents, siblings, grandparents, family members as well as friends around their classroom, talking about all that they had learnt. This is also a clear demonstration of how comfortable and safe the children feel here.

Thank you to the Year Six Student Leaders who assisted in welcoming and directing our visitors as well as helping with the tours. Their leadership skills shone through!

### Year Six Cluster Mass

Year Six is a very busy time for all the children! They certainly shoulder a great deal of responsibility and as is the tradition at Our Lady Help of Christians Year Six, 2010 are doing a great job. Well done!

Their latest undertaking was to attend the North Shore Cluster Mass for Year Six students on Tuesday. They represented our school with pride and participated in this beautiful liturgy with reverence and respect.

Thank you Year Six and keep up the great start that you have made in first term!

### Stage Three in Canberra

Very early tomorrow morning, in the dark, the children in Stage Three will set off to Canberra for an overnight excursion. This is a wonderful opportunity for these children to experience so many things and to synthesise their learning about Government in Australia.

An enormous thank you goes to Mrs Dawson and Mrs McVicar for all that they have done to prepare the children for this trip. As you can imagine a lot of preparation goes on behind the scenes and they have given up their time to ensure that the children have this awesome opportunity.

I am sure that all the children will be here bright and early in the morning and their smiles and giggles of excitement and expectation will brighten the early morning darkness.

**God bless and preserve you and send you every blessing**

*Catherine McAuley*



### Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes to the Demasi family; Tahlia (Kindy), Myah (Year 2) and Julie & Salvatore on the birth of Sebastian on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

### Reflection

#### *Taking a Moment to Show Some Care*

*One evening, a friend and I were returning home from college on our bikes. As we were cycling along, we saw an old man sitting on the pavement of the road holding his chest, with his scooter parked beside him. Guessing that he is probably suffering from a chest pain, we parked our bikes and went over to him to ask him if he was alright. He smiled at us through the pain and told us that he had called his son and they were on their way to pick him up. He also said that we were the first people to stop by to make sure he is ok, though that road is a very busy one.*

*It was just a small act of kindness from our side, but that day I learnt that sometimes a kind word is all it takes to show that you care :)*

Peace,  
Louise McDonald  
Acting Principal

### Diary Dates

#### **Term 1 2010**

##### **Week 9**

25<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> Mar Stage 3 excursion to Canberra

##### **Week 10**

Apr 1<sup>st</sup> Last day of Term 1

#### **Term 2 2010**

##### **Week 1**

19<sup>th</sup> Apr First day of Term 2

##### **Week 2**

26<sup>th</sup> Apr Anzac Day Holiday

30<sup>th</sup> Apr Easter Season Mass 12.15pm

##### **Week 3**

4<sup>th</sup> May School Photos

5<sup>th</sup> May Cluster Cross country

### From the REC

Forgiveness is an important aspect of Jesus' ministry. The Gospels contain many stories about the compassion and mercy of Jesus and his readiness to heal and forgive people.



The forgiveness of Jesus is offered to everyone. Jesus forgives sins and calls us to new life. Through the sacrament of Penance, the Church continues Jesus' ministry of forgiveness.

There were quite a few students from our school who made their First Reconciliation last Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> March at St Gerard's Carlingford. Could you please keep these students in your prayers as they continue this very special journey of getting closer to God through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Myah	Demasi
Sasha	Dunn
Cameron	Fernandopulle
Coral	Gonzalez
Victoria	Gonzalez
Taj	Varlow
Georgia	Astbury
Benjamin	Gangemi
Adam	Gangemi
Sarah	Khachiki
Bridget	Maguire
Dominic	Micallef
Patrick	Morrison
Alessandro	Muranty
Jose	Saavedra
Laurence	Sheehan

A huge thank you to the following group facilitators who gave up their time to prepare the children.

Carlos Antoinette, Julie Astalosh, Donna Astbury, Deborah Bryant, Jonathan de Lima, Sam Demasi, Helen Roche, Coral Fernandez, Julie Essey, Sylvia MacRitchie-Hook, Stefani Hunt, Eveline Issa, Brian Maguire, David Muranty, Marissa Sheehan, Louise Weißen and all who assisted them.

**Our Holy Week Reflection will take place next Monday at 11.30am. Parents are very welcome to attend.**

Tracey Dawson  
Acting Assistant Principal & REC



### Choir Performance

The Junior and Senior Choir will be performing at assembly on Thursday April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Parents are warmly invited to attend.

Fiona Mead & Shai Lah

### Premier's Reading Challenge Passwords

All students should have received their username and passwords today. If you sent in a participation slip and your child did not receive their username and passwords today, please contact me on [maryanne.jackson@dbb.catholic.edu.au](mailto:maryanne.jackson@dbb.catholic.edu.au)



Over the last weeks, I have enjoyed listening to the students talking about the books they are enjoying at the moment. Some children have been asking if they are able to read from another booklist. The answer is yes, all students can attempt the Challenge by reading PRC books **at** or **above** their stage level.

For example, a student in Year 4 can read books from the 3-4, 5-6 or 7-9 lists. Students are not to read down from the booklists below their Challenge level unless it is a personal choice book. It is important to note that when students are choosing books from higher booklists, extra guidance may be necessary to ensure that the books are appropriate for their age, interest and maturity levels. It's a good idea to refer to the full book lists which include information about each book's content.

Keep up the great reading efforts, OLHC!!

Mary Anne Jackson  
Teacher Librarian

### Canteen News

We will be having hot cross buns for morning tea on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April – the last day of school for this term. The hot cross buns must be pre-ordered.



The order forms have been sent home today and must be returned with payment by Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March.

Marissa Sheehan

### Before and After School Care News

On Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April After School Care will be having an Easter Party!

We will have many fun activities including Easter themed craft and games and best of all - an Easter egg hunt!



We really hope that everyone can join us for the celebrations. Casual bookings are welcome!

If you would like to book your child in, please contact Gemma on 9869 3635 or [olhccca@live.com.au](mailto:olhccca@live.com.au)

### Volunteers Needed – Carnivale 2121

**When: SUNDAY 28 MARCH 2010, Midday - 8.00pm**  
**Where: NORTH EPPING OVAL, Boundary Road, Nth Epping**

OLHC's contribution to Carnivale 2121 is the provision of any profits made from selling Gelato. We need to run the stall from 12 midday to 5pm. If you are coming down for the day and are able to help out for a short period of time please come over to the stall and let us know your availability. High school students may assist as well. Thanks for your support.



Jo Manning 0409 240 389.

### Merit Awards Week 8 Term 1

Kindy	Owen Eymael
	Kaitlyn Meares
Year 1	Jemma Baldwin
	Elizabeth Bronk
Year 2	Ben Gangemi
	Samantha Stubbs
Year 3	Tia O'Callaghan
	Oliver Quinn
Year 4	Zoe Re
	Hannah Stephens
Year 5/6	Nathan Stubbs
	Kasia Glennie



### Community News

**Star Sports Soccer Camps** – For boys and girls 4 to 14 years. 6 - 9 April and 12 – 16 April at various locations. Group, weekly, daily and half day rates available. Aftercare available until 4pm. For more information call 9981 3472 or 0412 602 999 or go to [www.starsportscamps.com](http://www.starsportscamps.com)

**Join YMCA Netball** – YMCA is looking for extra players 8 – 9 years, 11 – 12 years and 14 – 17 years. Contact Sheree on 0405 838 790 or email [ymca\\_netball\\_news@hotmail.com](mailto:ymca_netball_news@hotmail.com)

## Birthday Stars

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrated their birthday this week.



Cory Gonzalez

Zoe Re

## NSW Premier's Reading Challenge 2010

During term 1 and 2 we will be focusing on someone who has chosen to participate in the Premier's reading Challenge in 2010. This week it is Jessica Prowse in year 4. Interviewed by Gabi Aston. Photographed by Rebecca Manning.

1. Have you participated in the challenge before?  
*Yes I participated at my old school.*
2. What has been your favourite book this year?  
*"Jasmine Lucky Star" which is the second book in the "Ballerina Dreams" series.*
3. Who is your favourite book character?  
*George from The Famous Five.*
4. What genre do you enjoy the most?  
*Adventure*
5. Where do you like to read?  
*On my Bed.*
6. Who is your favourite author?  
*Enid Blyton*
7. Do you prefer reading to someone or being read to by someone?  
*Reading to someone.*
8. Do you prefer the narrator to be a main character in the story or just an observer?  
*I like the narrator to be an observer in the story.*
9. What genre would you like to explore further in the future?  
*Fantasy and mystery.*
10. Finish the sentence  
READING IS...  
*Awesome.*

