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Principal: Mrs Regina Goodridge

IMPORTANT DATES:**THIS WEEK (3)::**

11/5 - Students return to face to face teaching

15/5 - Assembly awards (students only)

NEXT WEEK (4):**TERM 2:**

27/5 - Simultaneous

Storytime

8/6 Public Holiday

**MOST OF OUR
DATES ARE
STILL TO BE
CONFIRMED or
CANCELLED
DUE TO
COVID-19**

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE:**

Dear families and friends,

I hope all our mothers were shown how special you are yesterday. Thank you to Miss Hanns for preparing a touching Mother's Day Liturgy via FaceBook last Friday and featuring all our special ladies in a slideshow presentation.

What a joy it was to see all the happy little faces enter the school gates again today. The classrooms are full of chatter and laughter again and we are grateful to all re-connect.

Please see the information further in the newsletter and procedures outlined in the Home Fluency booklets being sent home for reading at home this term.

Thank you for your support in getting your children back into routine for school. I think we will be all a little more tired until we readjust.

Best wishes for a wonderful week,

Regina

God Could Not Be Everywhere,
And Therefore He Made Mothers.

- Rudyard Kipling



God,

Both mother and father for humankind and creation,
we are grateful and thankful today for mothering,
for the feminine touch of parenting,
for the special connection of mother and child,
and thankful for all the women in our lives,
who offer care, comfort, encouragement and support.
We are grateful for the self-sacrifice of love that is given
and we offer our love in return.
We remember the mothers who are.
We remember the mothers who have been and are gone.
We remember the mothers who can't be.
We acknowledge that mothering is hard
and not all are able to do so as they would like.
We acknowledge that we all fall short in life and love
and that mothers are no exception in this.
However, today, we honour mothering,
especially those who give of their best.
We pray for all mothers and those who offer mothering
beyond the circle of bloodlines and family.
For mothers and all women we pray.

Amen.

A Prayer for Mothers



TERM 2 HOME READING PROCEDURES

Our families were in such a great routine in Term 1 with the home reading program....until Coronavirus changed everything! I hope you were able to continue to engage with reading over the last seven weeks.

For the rest of this term, home reading will look a little different to last term.

Today each child will bring home a Term 2 Fluency booklet which will stay at home until **Friday of Week 10**. This booklet will contain 8 passages - one for each week left of Term 2. Each night we ask you time how many words your child can read in 1 minute (twice). You will record the words read per minute in the box at the bottom of the page. This timed reading encourages fluency and accuracy.

Your child will read the **SAME PASSAGE** for a **WEEK**. Children will have the same booklet at school as well where they will also read the same passage twice a day.

At the end of the term we will be collecting home booklets and celebrated with a reward for children who have recorded 30 NIGHTS of reading.

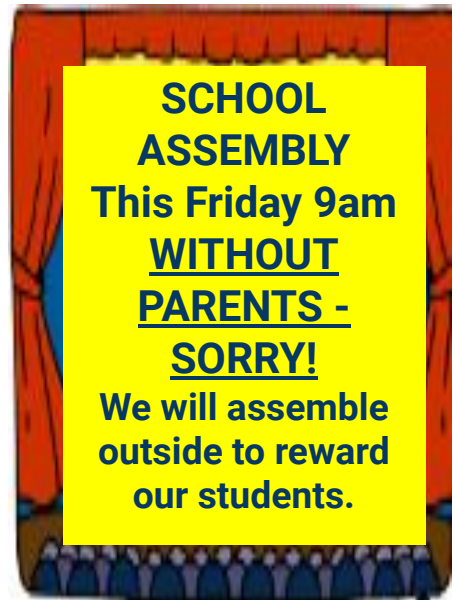
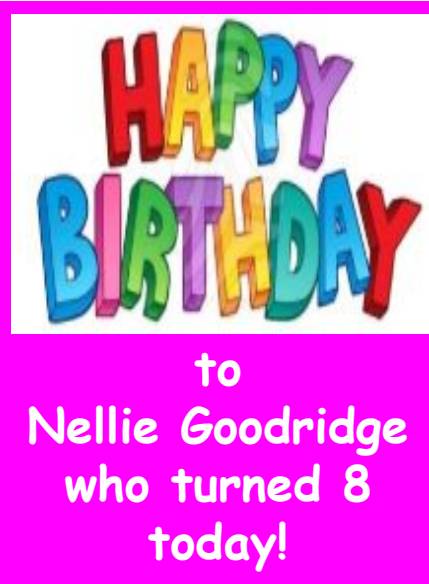
COVID-19 PROCEDURES to ENSURE the SAFETY of ALL when returning in WEEK 3

The following procedures will help to provide a healthy and safe environment for all when returning to school in Week 3:

- ★ **DROP OFF in the MORNING:** Please walk your child to the gate and say goodbye without entering the school (there may be individual cases where this will look a bit different).
- ★ **PICK UP in the AFTERNOON:** Please remain in your car and a teacher will walk your child to the car and put them into your car safely. If you are walking, wait outside the gate and a teacher will walk your child to you.
- ★ **DRINK BOTTLES** - your child must have a drink bottle as **WATER BUBBLERS** are **CLOSED**. A staff member can refill the water bottle from the tap throughout the day if necessary.
- ★ **NO FOOD SHARING** - children must only eat their own food packed by parents. No shared birthday cakes at this stage please.
- ★ On **ARRIVAL** to school children will **PUT** their **BAG** on the hook, **WASH HANDS** and get their temperature taken.

DURING THE DAY AT SCHOOL, STAFF and EXTRA CLEANER time WILL provide:

- On entering rooms, hand sanitiser will be used.
- Before eating, hands will be washed.
- Children will have their own desk and materials.
- Chromebooks, materials and desks will be disinfected at the end of each day.
- Chromebooks will stay at school this term (a break from technology might be helpful).
- Gail will be cleaning the high touch points in the toilets, outdoor tables and door handles after each break and at the end of the day.
- Play equipment will be limited and disinfected after each use.
- Windows and doors will be opened when possible for ventilation
- If children or staff show any signs of illness they will be sent home immediately.
- Social distancing and supervision to use toilets at high traffic times.



PARISH NOTICES

ST JAMES CATHOLIC CHURCH

There will be no Sunday Mass or Liturgy of the Word until further notice.

Fr Manoj can be contacted and is available for private administering of sacraments if necessary.

Bulletins are available at the church side entrance.

Home Liturgy Kits for May, are available for Parishioners Please Contact Jan if you require one.

Bishop Columba streams Mass live from Sacred Heart Cathedral in Broken Hill each Sunday morning at 9am via his Facebook page.

If Parishioners would like to catch up on their planned giving (Envelopes) and contributions for the first plate, you may leave your envelopes for both with Jan and Donna will bank it.

There may not be any plate collections for some time.



*Happy Mother's Day
to all the wonderful
women in our lives.
We are so blessed to
have you!*







A Pastoral Letter for Our Lady' s month of May

A Pastoral Letter for Our Lady' s month of May My dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ This year so far has been a challenging one. Our entire world has been thrown into chaos with COVID19 and we have seen our daily lives become abnormal with the various restrictions in place. Our Churches have physically closed, our social lives have somewhat come to a halt and the continual stress of uncertainty shadows our everyday lives.

In some ways this event of our normal lives being thrown into chaos happened to someone 2,000 years ago. A young woman from Nazareth was going about living life as a normal until a particular event would change her life and the course of history forever, that woman is Mary. At the annunciation Mary's life changed, she was thrown into a chaotic event. She now had to deal with various complications on a social and spiritual level. Sacred Scripture reveals to us some of the chaotic events, such as the reality of Mary being unmarried and being pregnant, the long journey to Bethlehem, the reality of somewhat being 'homeless' at the birth of Christ and the flight into Egypt to escape the horrors of political leadership displayed by Herod.

Although as Mary's life went on, she always trusted in the providence and love of God. Mary had an insight like no other. When she and Saint Joseph presented Jesus to the temple, she was warned that her heart would be pierced with sorrow, this sorrow was watching her Son being convicted as a criminal and left to die on a cross for the salvation of humanity. Yet despite all this she was the greatest example for us all. Her love and trust in God teaches us that with God, all things are possible even through the greatest trials and moments of chaos.

Sadly, over the years there has been a lack of devotion and love for Mary and we have seen a downplay of her powerful role in the life of the Church. Such lack of devotion of love has not come from our Church teachings, but sadly from individuals that have seen her as an obstacle rooted in piety and tradition rather than a fundamental theological figure in the life of our pilgrim Church. Pope Francis reminds us that love and devotion to Mary is a

requirement and quotes, "Devotion to Mary is not spiritual etiquette; it is a requirement of the Christian life. The gift of the Mother, the gift of every Mother and every woman, is most precious for the Church, for she too is mother and woman." (Homily for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God, January 1st 2018, St Peters, Rome)

With this in mind, we have now entered into the month of May, a month in which the Church dedicates to Mary. The Church invites us to take time to reflect on the life of Mary and invite her into our lives through prayer and reflection. As we are all aware that our diocesan Patroness is 'Our Lady of Perpetual Help', her image that we all hold dear to our hearts is the prime example of the trust we must have in her. In this image, we see Jesus as a small child gazing at the Cross and his tiny hands clenched into the tender hands of Mary portraying his love and comfort in his Mother. The same love and comfort that he gave to us at the Cross when he said, "Behold your Mother!"

Therefore, dear friends, I ask that you trust in Mary and in her maternal care that she has for us and for the Church. As we continue to struggle with the current chaos of COVID-19, be reminded that Mary is with us during this time and that she will guide us through this and provide comfort and peace. I ask that you use this month of May to rededicate your lives to Mary our Good Mother. I ask that you revisit the practice of the Holy Rosary in your family homes and ask Our Lady through this most powerful prayer for comfort, protection and peace.

I take this opportunity to consecrate you all to the powerful care and love of Mary and rededicate this beautiful diocese to Our Lady of Perpetual Help- Mother and Queen of Wilcannia-Forbes. May God Bless you all
The Most Reverend Columba Macbeth-Green
OSPPE DD Bishop of the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes.

May God bless you all



The Most Reverend Columba Macbeth-Green OSPPE DD
Bishop of the Diocese of Wilcannia-Forbes

COMPLIANCE CHILD SAFE SCHOOLS AND SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENTS INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

We take our responsibility to protect children seriously. All staff are expected to promote child safety by having a clear understanding of their legal child protection responsibilities and act in accordance with those responsibilities.

In particular the school will:

- Maintain professionalism in our interactions with children at all times by exercising appropriate duty of care and maintaining professional boundaries.
- Follow an established process to address allegations of inappropriate behaviour by staff towards children.
- Ensure all people working in our school who are required to undertake a Working With Children Check have a valid clearance.
- Respond appropriately when we suspect a child is at risk of significant harm due to possible abuse or neglect by a parent/carer or other adult.

RESPONDING TO RISK OF HARM

All school staff are mandatory reporters. This means that if there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a child is at risk of 'significant harm' from abuse or neglect, then a report must be made to Community Services Child Protection Helpline (CP Helpline).