



Dear families,

As we begin the season of **Lent**, I would like to extend my gratitude to Mr. Roberts for organizing the Ash Wednesday Liturgy this morning and the Pancake Breakfast on Tuesday. All funds raised will be donated to Caritas, supporting their numerous worthy causes worldwide.



On behalf of the **St Paul's Parents & Friends committee** I invite you to complete this google form regarding the Annual General Meeting at the Gracemere Hotel on 17 March. The P&F do fantastic work supporting families and students, and they are always looking for new ways to engage parents, like having a meeting in the pub!

I encourage you to support them and our school by attending and RSVPing by March 13th using the Google form below.

[P&F meeting @ Gracemere Hotel RSVP](#)

There has been considerable discussion in the media recently about closing the **gap between Public and Catholic & Independent schools**. It is important to know all the facts before forming opinions and this link will take you to a brief (1 minute, 13 seconds) video that helps explain school funding in Australia and its impact on Catholic schools.

[Do you understand the Australian school funding system?](#)

For further information go to this website: [About - Keep School Funding Fair](#)

Lastly, on Friday, we will bid farewell to Miss Sandilands, who has been an ESA in Year 1 this year. She recently completed her studies in Criminology and has secured a job in her field. We wish her all the best in her future career.

Have a great week & God bless,

Anthony Greene



A Prayer for the Journey of Lent: Heavenly Father, as we journey through this holy season of Lent, we seek to deepen our relationship with You. Grant us the grace to repent for our sins, to fast and sacrifice with joy, and to give generously to those in need. Strengthen our hearts with Your love and mercy and guide us closer to the example of Your Son, Jesus Christ. May we experience the renewal and transformation that Lent brings, leading us to the joy of Easter. Amen. **St Paul:** Pray for us.

A.P.R.E. News

What a great week at St Paul's. **Thank you** to all families who **donated pancakes** for Shrove Tuesday. **Shrove Tuesday**, also known as "**Pancake Day**," is the day before Lent begins for Catholics. It's traditionally a time for feasting and using up rich foods like eggs, sugar, and fat before the fasting and penance of Lent. **Mrs Harkin, Mrs Wells and Year 6** took the lead setting up, serving and cleaning up on the day, thank you for making this a great community event. **Year 3M** will be leading **Prayer Assembly** this **Friday** at 8.30am under the Big Shed. **All are welcome** to join us.

Thankyou to the Year 6 students who helped lead our **Lent Prayer Assembly** this morning. What a wonderful way to start Lent. We were blessed with the presence of parents and parishioners joining us for this event. Much appreciated.

Lent is a significant period for Catholics, spanning 40 days leading up to Easter. It serves as a time of reflection, repentance, and spiritual renewal. During Lent, Catholics often engage in **fasting, prayer**, and acts of **charity** to draw closer to God and prepare their hearts for the celebration of Jesus Christ's resurrection. By observing these practices, Catholics aim to grow in faith, strengthen their relationship with God, and experience a deeper sense of purpose and community. During Lent, the colour purple is used by Catholics to symbolize penance, reflection, and spiritual preparation for Easter. Lent is a journey that invites believers to examine their lives, seek forgiveness, and embrace the transformative power of God's love.

On **Sunday the 16th of March** St Paul's will again lead our local **Parish Mass at 8am** at St Paul's Church. These masses have been great experiences for our school and local parishioners and **all are invited** to join us on this day.

Last week, Mr Greene, Mrs Wells and I attended a meeting to explore our **Catholic Identity** from data collected last year. The data showed a great support for the direction we are taking as a school. To keep moving on our journey to become a **Catholic school at which students respond and engage with scripture and faith in multiple ways at multiple levels**. As a Catholic school we want to share the Catholic Faith open to dialogue with all other faiths and all people. We will now be looking for ways to further enhance our Catholic Identity brining the Gospel (**The Good News**) to life in the world in which we live today.

May the Lord bless you and keep you during this holy season of Lent. May He guide your steps, strengthen your spirit, and fill your heart with His love and grace. As you journey toward Easter, may you experience the peace and renewal that come from a closer walk with God.

God Bless
Mark Roberts

Important Dates	
12 th Mar	NAPLAN starts
17 th Mar	P&F AGM 5.30pm Gracemere Hotel
4 th April	Cross Country

P&F Supporters Gear

St Paul's P&F want to expand family's options for supporter's gear with the addition of caps for approximately \$10.

These would be mainly for adults or children to wear outside of school (they don't replace the school hat). They are seeking expression of interest for the idea for ordering purposes. Please fill in this google form.



[Supporters Cap EOI](#)

EASTER RAFFLE

It's time again for our annual **Chocolate Easter Raffle!** Each family is asked to donate Easter eggs for the raffle. Please leave the donations at the office in the air conditioning. All proceeds go to Caritas Australia to support their Project Compassion Appeal.



swop it
everyday in the lunchbox

Simple sweet swaps

Have you already tried swapping?

Next week, why not challenge yourself to try one of these sweet swaps:

- Muesli bar to pikelets
- Dairy dessert to reduced fat custard
- Juice to water with fresh fruit

Making these sweet swaps can protect kids from tooth decay.

SWAP FROM



Dairy dessert

➔

SWAP TO



Reduced fat custard



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!


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ROCKHAMPTON CATHOLICS
238 MURRAY ST, ROCKHAMPTON
PO BOX 8446 ALLENSTOWN Q 4700

NAPLAN

National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy Information for parents and carers

- All students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in Australia do NAPLAN tests in March each year.
- NAPLAN tests students' skills in reading, writing and maths.
- The test questions are presented in Standard Australian English dialect.
- Students read some of the questions and listen to others with headphones.
- The tests will get easier or harder, depending on how students are going in the test.
- Students do four different tests. The names of the four tests are:



Writing



Reading



Conventions of language
(spelling, grammar and punctuation)



Numeracy

- Students in Year 3 will do the Writing test using pencil and paper. Year 3 students will answer the other test questions on the computer.
- Students in Years 5, 7 and 9 will answer all their test questions on computers.
- Teachers will help students get ready for NAPLAN tests.
- Schools will get their students' results. The school will then give parents/carers a report showing their own child's results.
- Parents/carers can talk to the teacher about these results.
- NAPLAN shows how students are going all over Australia. People who work in the Australian Government, state and territory education authorities and schools use NAPLAN results. The results let them see which schools are doing well and which schools might need help.

Talk to your teacher if you have any questions about your child doing the tests.
For more information on NAPLAN, visit nap.edu.au.