Dear Parents,

In this Sunday’s gospel St Luke explores one of the less well know parables of Jesus. The focus of this parable is around the uncertainty in our own lives. St Luke points out in his writing that God is the only one who knows the destiny of our lives. This includes when He calls us to our eternal life with him in Heaven. The parable explores what we must do in order to be prepared for when we are called to eternal life, as often we are not expecting it. Life is full of uncertainty, change and challenges that we learn to cope with as we live out a life of faith as members of God’s family. A life of prayer, a love for one another and following in the footsteps of Our Lord will prepare us for life ever after in Heaven.

We welcome back Miss Boidin tomorrow following her role as a supervisor of the Parramatta Diocesan Pilgrims who attended the World Youth Day week of festivities in Brazil. From all reports our pilgrims from the Diocese found the experience life changing and faith enhancing. We give thanks in prayer for their safety whilst abroad.

Last Friday we celebrated our Grandparents’ Day. It was a great community occasion for St Mary’s. It was terrific to see so many of our students’ grandparents attend our mass, followed by our open classroom story-telling sessions and morning tea. Over the years the day has grown into the biggest community occasion on the school calendar. It was also terrific to see our students and families attend our book fair on the day. Thank you to Mrs Morgan who coordinated our liturgy on the day and to Mrs Radocchia who facilitated the book fair and related events during the week.

Next Wednesday evening the St Mary’s P&F Association will hold the Annual General Meeting. The meeting will be held in the school library and will commence at 7pm. All parents and friends of the school are invited to attend. During the meeting, the 2013/2014 office bearers will be elected for the next twelve months. Last Friday, a list of the duties pertaining to each of the P&F office bearers was sent home for you to read and to consider taking on for the upcoming year. Please come along and support this parent body whose main role is to support the school through a variety of social and fundraising initiatives. If you have any questions regarding these committee roles please contact me by phone or email or just drop in at the office.

Last week, some of our Stage 2 students participated in the Diocesan Soccer Gala Day. From all reports the students enjoyed the opportunity to represent our school and were great ambassadors. Thanks to Mrs Jarrett and Mrs Queixalos who managed the teams and the parents who attended on the day to support our players. Today our Zone Athletics Team attended the Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival at Blacktown. We look forward to hearing about their achievements in the coming days.

Have a great week!

Tony Hughes
PRINCIPAL
CRAFT STALL
Our next Craft Stall session will be on Monday 12th August in the school hall commencing at 9:00am. We are still taking donations and would also like to thank everyone who has made a donation. Your generosity is much appreciated.

We are currently looking for donations of old music books/sheets and small or large Moccona coffee jars.

BABY NEWS
We would like to congratulate the Pericaud family, Isabelle in KL, on the birth of their baby boy, Beau.

FOSTER CARE ASSOCIATION
The Foster Care Association NSW Inc. is the voice of foster carers in this State. Our role is not only to support the work of carers in policy setting, but to encourage people to take up caring. If you are interested in becoming a foster carer, why not contact the Foster Care Association at shaz@fca.org.au or go to our website for more information fcansw.org.au to gain information and background. The Association is made up of experienced carers who can answer your questions about what caring "feels like". Foster Care Association NSW Inc. provides information and advocacy for foster and kinship carers throughout the State.

PRINCIPAL AWARDS
TERM 3—Week 3

3B Sam Schembri-Green and Rachael Anderson
3J Lara Waterhouse and Ashlee Liwanag
4E Gabriela Villena and Alex Johnson
4O Leila Vertley and Ashton Ballout
5G Catherine Azize and Liam Young
5J Angelina Acosta and Justine Kim
6B Isabella Waterhouse and Elie Saba
6L Cameron Foster and Chloe Tsigounis

CARE AWARDS
TERM 3—Week 3

3B Lara Mastronardo and Mia Ezzy
3J Jaspen Arathoon and Zane Watson
4E Hamish Davidson and Trinity Tecala
4O Maddison Boulous and Nicholas Norris
5G Bethany Bayeh and Caitlin Turner
5J Priya Palaiyan and Bernhard Tandean
6B James Furolo and Shaun Cassidy
6L Tim Greig and Georgia Hogan
August 8 – Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

Mary Helen MacKillop was born in Fitzroy, Melbourne on January 15, 1842. Together with Fr Tenison Woods, Mary founded the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph in 1867, an Order dedicated to the education of poor children. Mary faced many challenges, not least of which was her (questionable) excommunication by Bishop Shiel in September 1871 – an excommunication lifted five months later. By 1891, there were three hundred sisters working in nine dioceses in Australia and New Zealand. An ordinary Australian woman, yet a woman of heroic holiness, goodness, warmth and determination, Mary died on August 8, 1909. On October 17, 2010 Mary MacKillop, Saint Mary of the Cross, was declared a Saint by Pope Benedict XVI. One of her best known sayings is ‘Never see a need without doing something about it!’

On Thursday 8th August, there will be a Mass in the Church starting at 9:15am celebrating the “Feast of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop”. Everyone is most welcome to come along and join us.

COMMUNITY NEWS...

MANAGING REDUCED FINANCES
Each year Catholic Care Solo Parent Ministry offers an Information night for anyone interested in gaining a greater understanding on how to manage on reduced finances. This seminar will cover things like Tracking your spending, Money plans, Prioritising your finances and how to make your money work for you. There will be brochures on No Interest Loans, Fridge Buy Backs, Centrelink etc. This night is being held on **Wed 14th August at 7.30pm** at CCSS Centre, 51-58 Allawah St, Blacktown. Guest Speaker: Sharon Yeh (CCSS Financial Counsellor) and Jennifer Saunders (Home Energy Savings Scheme). Further details and registration: soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205.

WEST RYDE ROVERS CRICKET

REGISTRATION FOR 2013/14 SEASON

Boys and Girls
* In2cricket (Milo) 4 - 7 yrs (10 week program, term 4)
  * U8/U9 modified cricket competition.
  * 10 – 16 yrs competition + girls only team.

**Registration Day**
Sunday 11 August (11am – 4pm)
Denistone Sports Club
59 Chatham Rd West Ryde.
Contact: Kerrie O’Brien (Club secretary)
roverscricket@gmail.com
LIBRARY NEWS..

THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!
THANK YOU!

Our Book Fair was a major success thanks to all the children, parents, grandparents, teachers and friends that supported it by buying books. It was reassuring and inspiring to see so many children enthusiastic about books and reading. This enthusiasm also translates to an amazing $1,600.00 for us to spend on more resources for the library!

A big thank you to the book fair volunteers - Susan Boulous, Kate Redfearn, Branka Ball, Kelly Alcuri, Allison Markarian, Eli Ogrizek, Alex Quinn and Carly Lake - who helped out over the three days. I couldn’t have done it without you!

Lastly, a special thank you to the families of the following children - Joshua Green (K), Ana and Matthew Ogrizek (K), Tara Quinn (K) and Dakota Prudnicki (Y1) - who donated books to the library on their behalf. These will be appreciated by all of us.