Dear Friends

We all enjoyed a happy and social morning for our Opening School Mass on Sunday. It was terrific to see so many families present to celebrate the new school year. Following Mass we all enjoyed a barbecued breakfast in the Church grounds.

Lenten Passports

Yesterday the primary students were issued with their Lenten Passports. This little book will guide them through Lent to the light of Easter. Please assist the students by initialling each activity completed.

Southern Region Swimming Carnival

Annabelle Englert, Jorja Lees, Sara Kiel & Jack Job competed at the Southern Region Swimming Carnival in Orange today. We look forward to hearing about their day when they return.

Student of the Week

Amelia Vaughan

For being a conscientious class member

Merit Certificates

Congratulations to the following students who received Merit Awards this week.

Primary: Annabelle Englert, Milo Hunter
Infants: Simon Brown, Fergus Kerin, Will Kerin
St Columba’s School Kitchen Garden
Many thanks to those who have expressed an interest in being a part of the School Kitchen Garden Committee. Please send in your note or contact the school by the end of this week if you would like to be a part of the team.

Lunch Orders
Please remember that this Friday is a regular lunch order day and next Friday is the special sausage sizzle and popper day. Please remember to send in money and notes if your child is ordering. The Junior Joey’s mini canteen is proving to be a huge success and we thank all for their support and cooperation.

NRL Clinic
Alex Prout from NRL Western Area will again visit St Columba’s to share some football skills with the students. All students K-6 will need to wear their Sports Uniform to school next Thursday 5th March. Students will then wear summer school uniform on Friday 6th March.

Parish Anointing Mass
All are invited to an Anointing Mass on Wednesday 11th March at 10.15am. Fr Carl would like to celebrate an Anointing Mass for parishioners and the school once per month.

Catholic Schools Week
Activities for Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated in Weeks 7 & 8. More information will be given closer to the time.

Kind regards

Glen Brown
Principal

Community News

RE: WELLINGTON JUNIOR RUGBY UNION REGISTRATION DAYS.
Wellington Junior Rugby Union Registration Days at Montefiores Oval
Thursday: 19th February 2015 from 6pm-7.30pm
Thursday: 26th February 2015 from 6pm -7.30pm
Thursday 5th March 2015 from 6pm -7.30pm
All Registrations will require a photocopy of their Birth Certificate.
Please contact Leigh on 0408 463 853 with any question about Registrations.
TO KEEP A TRUE LENT

The preaching of Jesus in the Gospels always returns to a few key themes. Every year, on Ash Wednesday, we proclaim one of the most frequent teachings of the Lord: the difference between the religion of the heart and the religion of outward show.

At the beginning of Chapter 6 of Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus calls us to give to the poor; to pray; and to fast. But he prefaces this call with a warning not to “parade these good deeds before people to attract their notice.”

Three times he repeats “your Father, who sees all that is done in secret will reward you.”

Lent is a time for that deeper meeting with God and the true conversion of our hearts. Only out of that conversion can come any good deeds worthy of the name.

The seventeenth century English poet Robert Herrick expressed this teaching beautifully in “To Keep a True Lent.”

He begins by asking the question “is this a fast?” and listing possible easy answers to what we might “give up” for Lent. Echoing the preaching of Jesus, he says “no” to these outward displays and concludes like this:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{No} & \; ; \; \text{‘tis a fast to dole} \\
\text{Thy sheaf of wheat,} & \\
\text{And meat,} & \\
\text{Unto the hungry soul.} & \\
\text{It is to fast from strife,} & \\
\text{From old debate} & \\
\text{And hate;} & \\
\text{To circumcise thy life.} & \\
\text{To show a heart grief-rent;} & \\
\text{To starve thy sin,} & \\
\text{Not bin;} & \\
\text{And that’s to keep thy Lent.} & 
\end{align*}
\]

The grace of renewal that God offers in this season is available for everyone, if only we would say yes.

+Michael McKenna

Bishop of Bathurst