Dear Friends

Diocesan Swimming Carnival
We are all very proud of our Small Schools Relay Team who won their event at the Diocesan Swimming Carnival in Dubbo on Monday. The girls swam beautifully, taking 10 seconds off their time from last week’s Southern Region Carnival. They are now part of the Diocesan Swimming Team which will complete at the Polding Swimming Carnival at Homebush on Friday 28th March.

Lent
Today of course marks the beginning of Lent. Mrs Brown will be leading a Lenten Prayer Evening each Wednesday during Lent. The first evening is tonight from 7-8pm in the school library. All are welcome.

Merciful God, You called us forth from the dust of the earth. You claimed us for Christ in the waters of Baptism. Look upon us as we enter these forty days bearing the mark of ashes. Bless our Journey through the desert of Lent to the font of rebirth. May our fasting be a hunger for justice; our alms a making of peace; our prayer the chant of humble and grateful hearts. All that we do is in the name of Jesus, for His cross you proclaim your love now and forever. Amen
Catering Landcare Ball
Many thanks to all parents who are able to provide slices etc for the Landcare Ball this coming Saturday. It would be most appreciated if these could be dropped at school by this Friday afternoon. Slices do not need to be plated as this will be done by Mel Kiel on Saturday afternoon. Please remember to clearly label containers so that they can be returned to you. Thank you for your support and cooperation with this fundraising event.

Ash Wednesday
Thank you to everyone for making the extra effort to have students at Mass at 8am this morning – it was greatly appreciated. Following Mass we all enjoyed a light breakfast together in the library before commencing our daily learning. This was a great way to start the season of Lent.

Shrove Tuesday
We all enjoyed our pancake breakfast yesterday for Shrove Tuesday. Thank you for supporting Project Compassion.

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

Primary: Laura Kiel, Belle Englert
Infants: Toby Brown, Fergus Kerin

Catholic Schools Week
Next Week celebrates Catholic Schools Week. A separate note regarding the activities will be sent home by the end of this week.

30 Seconds with Patrick Vaughan
Favourite Food – Spaghetti Bolognaisie
Favourite Colour – Green
Favourite TV Show – Scobby Doo
Favourite Animal - Monkey
Hobby – Riding my bike
When I grow up I want to be a Farmer

Kind Regards

Glen Brown
Principal
BISHOP'S LENTEN MESSAGE FOR 2014

Lent is here again. It can be an important moment in our journey of becoming Christian. Once again, we face the mysterious reality that this journey is both deeply individual, and one that we make together. The readings for Ash Wednesday show that personal repentance is both individual and communal. It begins in the “secret place” of our hearts, fully known only to God. It is lived out in our relationships with God and others.

To make a good Lent, we might remember that Christianity is not a religion. Mere religion involves the outward observance of rules and practices, designed as exchanges of favours between human beings and the divine.

But Christianity is a person, who offers us a relationship of genuine love. In Jesus Christ, fully human and fully divine, we find forgiveness and freedom from the tyranny of selfishness. Our daily acts of love reveal the new life in our hearts. Because they are also acts of faith, they make it grow.

Lent should not be reduced to a kind of individual spiritual improvement program. The interplay between acts of prayer, fasting and mercy can help us live the season together in Christ for the life of the world.

I have two suggestions for directing our thoughts beyond ourselves. Both respond to calls that Pope Francis has made for our prayer and action.

First, let us pray and work for renewal of Christian families as the little churches, the domestic churches. I invite families who have not been coming together for prayer in the home to make this season a time to start again.

Second, I commend to your support and participation the National Lament for asylum seekers launched by Catholic Religious Australia, to coincide with this season of repentance and concern for our neighbour.

May the graces that God freely offers us, as individuals who form a community of faith, be received and bear the fruit of new life.

+ Michael McKenna
Bishop of Bathurst