Dear Parents,

In the palm ceremony, that will be part of this Sunday's ceremony there's a lot of talk about power and glory and victory and the peace that goes with winning.

There was a procession in Jerusalem that day – a Jewish one, with Jewish disciples of Jesus leading it. Occupy Jerusalem! They were singing, and saying out loud that they were going to make Jesus their leader, and that the power and the glory and the victory and the peace that comes with winning were his. They were on the way to 'occupy' Jerusalem and its temple (at its Wall 'street' – the temple is the treasury). Strange, we still sing their songs in our liturgy….we still have that dream inside us.

But there was one person there who did not join in this song. **He was not singing, he was in tears.** He was in tears because he knew this dream had to die. He was in tears because he knew this kingdom was not going to come. He was in tears because he was not that sort of leader or Messiah. He was in tears because his God was not that sort of God. He was in tears because the real God, of powerlessness and littleness and non-violence, was in their midst and they did not know the day of his visitation. He was in tears because – although they hailed him and hosanna-ed him – they did not know him for who he really was, the son of the real God, very like the real God, very powerless, and little and non-violent. How long have I been with you and still you do not know me?

**Does Jesus say this about us?**

Carmel Agius
Kindergarten Enrolments for 2013

Enrolments for Kindergarten 2013 will take place from Week 1 of Term 2. If your child was born between 1st August 2007 and 31st July 2008 you will need to collect an enrolment form from the school office. Enrolment interviews will take place in Term 2.

As part of the Parramatta Diocesan Enrolment Policy priority for enrolments is given to:
1. Families within the parish of St Margaret Mary’s.
2. Catholic families living outside the parish boundaries.
3. Children of other Christian churches.
4. Those of other faiths.

For enrolment enquires please contact the school office.

Winter Uniform

Students return to school on Monday 23rd April in full winter uniform.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all the parents who participated in the CEO survey.

School Photos

School photos will be taken on Thursday 26th April. The photo envelopes will be given out to students on Monday 23rd April and are to be returned to school on the day of photos.

The family envelopes will be available from the school office from Thursday 29th March.

Photo Packages range in price from $46.00 for a Deluxe Package to $25.00 for a Grade photo book only.

Family Photo packages range from $30.00 for a Deluxe Package $15.00 for a Value Package.

For further information please contact Kerrie Booth in the school office.

Parent to Parent

Easter Raffle—Mufti Day

Friday 30th March is Mufti Day. To wear mufti, each student must donate an Easter Egg. All Easter Raffle tickets are due back to school on Monday 2nd April. More raffle tickets are available from the school office. Make sure that each ticket is clearly labelled with your child’s name and class.

We invite all parents to help make up the Easter Egg baskets on Monday 2nd April in the Creative Arts Room from 9-3pm. Parents make sure that you have completed the Child Protection Module. If you cannot help to make up the Easter Egg baskets, donations of food are welcome to feed the helpers. Please leave food at the school office.

The P & F Committee would appreciate any donations from parents of plastic Lebanese sweet trays for the Easter Raffle. Please leave the trays at the school office.

The Easter Raffle will be drawn on Thursday 5th April. There are 10 major prizes.
Cross Country
Congratulations to the following students who will be representing our school at the Diocesan Cross Country to be held on Tuesday 1st May.

Adriana Afful   Olivia Bleeker   Anthony Boutros   Mariah Caraan
Chan Chan       Yel Chan         Vanessa Cheng    Louis Chiha
David Curkovic  Olivia Davison   Joshua Dela Cruz Adut Deng
Aguer Deng      Deng Deng         Lawrence El Salakawy Christina Epenian
Elias Farah     Luke Fernandes   Claudia Floyd     Dylan Formosa
Sima Gem        Daniel Georges    Thomas Gerrie     Christopher Haddad
Ashai Hawach    Holly Ibrahim    Paula Kahwajy     Grace Kamuri
Robert Khraiche Selina Kilic     Jaymz Kouvas     Dennison Law
Shivam Malhotra Taylor Mansour   Avi Mehta         Christina Mifsud
Daniel Mifsud   Alesandra Nasr   Antonela Pavlovic Nicholas Perello
Elizabeth Pobee Emanuel Pobee    Nicholas Raffoul Charbella Rizk
Christina Rizk  Serena Saad     Alex Sallit       Amelia Walsh

Fundraiser
Contours fitness for women on the go are offering 10 visits for $10.00 and for every voucher that is sold by the school we get to keep the $10.00. So come and help support our school by purchasing a Contours 10 visit voucher from the school office.

Tuckshop Roster
Friday March 30    M. Cheng
Monday April 2     D. Anjoul, M. Menhem
Tuesday April 3    H. Maroun, L. McLeay L. Mitry
Wednesday April 4  P. Mtanios, A. Boulis

BIRTHDAYS
Bitanya Tilahun  Emma Cham     Michael Sarkis   Jason Saahene   Lidia Yimer
Ayac Ayac       Alek Kouvas    Hunter Osborne  Chloe Habkouk   Suzanah Issac
Amrita Rai      Malik El Masri George Horish  Mark Zabala    Chloe Boustani   Debi Gobena
Jasmin Ghosn    George Horish  Bosko Medic     Angelina Horish  Hussein Ali
TiannaGattuso   Rowan Gardoche Mark Zabala    Dennison Law    Bennett Saahene
Ella Sallit     Charbel Dakkache Gabi Schinella Maribel Ramos Montoya
Kenneth McFarlane Daniel Bouli    Caitlin Hitti    John-Paul Youssef
Christina Putrus Jemma Bazouni    Marisa Incognito Alannah Elias    Jacob Farah
Joseph Abou Zeid Robert Khraiche  Jonathan Maroun

Congratulations to all those children who celebrate their birthday around this time and during the holidays.
This week we begin our focus on each of the statements made by the Bishop around the theme of Evangelization.

Christian, become what you are. Get inspiration from the best places.

As we approach the most important time in the church’s year where we remember Jesus’ death and celebrate His Resurrection at Easter, it's an opportune time to reflect on who we are as Catholic people and who we look to for inspiration. In his homily Bishop Anthony speaks about some Catholics today;

“A recent English survey found many people had never heard of Moses or the Magi, thought miracles were magic and that the cross is a piece of jewellery. You probably know people like that. Many who still identify as Christian have little personal faith, don’t really know much about it, and live as practical atheists, that is, as if there were no god. Others, though baptised, no longer even identify with any religion. Most of them were Christened. They grew up in nominally Christian families and may even have gone to Catholic schools. Their surrounding culture was ostensibly Christian or at least had a long Christian heritage. But now they inhabit a world without God..... Sometimes we bring it on ourselves. Some aspects of our lives can be a real ‘turn off’ for others: Christian ‘faithful’ whose faith is lukewarm or angry or hypocritical; families that neglect to encourage the practice of the Faith in each other; Sometimes I think we build up resistance to the Faith in people by injecting them with a weak or dying religion.

One example of this is what I call Watermelon Catholicism. What do I mean by that? I mean a sweet but watery and even seedy kind of religion, with plenty of green-and-red moralising about ecology and justice but with no goal of a deeper conversion of hearts, a richer relationship with God and His Church.” — Witnesses to Christ in the World Most Rev Anthony Fisher Friday 19 August 2011

Do we identify ourselves as Catholic people?
Are we proud of being a Catholic?
Do we live by faith honestly?
Do we defend our faith to others?
Do we go to God in prayer?
How often do we read the scriptures?

These are questions we need to reflect on as we commit to be a part of a Catholic community that we became part of by sending our children to a Catholic School.

Holy Week

Next week we begin the most important week in our church’s year, Holy Week. The school will be re-enacting the events of Holy Week on the following days. You are most welcome to attend all or some of these prayer services.

**Monday 2nd April**: Palm Sunday led by the Infants children at 2.00pm

**Wednesday 3rd April**: Holy Thursday led by Years Three and Four at 2.00pm

**Thursday 4th April**: Good Friday led by Years Five and Six at 9.00am

I encourage you to participate in the Easter liturgies as a family.

We look forward to seeing you.

May you all have a happy and Holy Easter.

Anne Prendergast
REC Coordinator

St Margaret Mary’s Parish
Holy Week Mass times

**Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord**
Saturday 31st March 6.00pm
Sunday 1st April: 8.00am, 10.00am, (the Procession with Palms), 6.00pm.

**Holy Thursday 5th April**
Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7.30pm.

**Good Friday 6th April**
Stations of the Cross—10.00am.
Celebration of the Passion of the Lord—3.00pm.

**7th April**
The Easter Vigil in the Holy Night 7.00pm.

**8th April**
Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord 8.00am, 10.00am, 6.00pm.

**Our Lady of Mercy College**
Discover what a Mercy Education can do for your Daughter

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta invites families to the Year 7 2014 enrolment Information Evening at 5.00pm on April 2nd. Tour the College, collect an enrolment pack, attend an information session, meet the Principal and College staff and enjoy a BBQ with the OLMC P&F.

Enquires please contact the Enrolment Officer on 8838 1222 or email enrolment@olmc.nsw.edu.au