Dear Parents, Teachers and Friends,

Tomorrow is St Patrick’s Day, the most widely celebrated Saints day in the world. It is known that St. Patrick was born in Britain to wealthy parents near the end of the fourth century. He is believed to have died on March 17, around 460 A.D. Although his father was a Christian deacon, it has been suggested that he probably took on the role because of tax incentives and there is no evidence that Patrick came from a particularly religious family. At the age of sixteen, Patrick was taken prisoner by a group of Irish raiders who were attacking his family's estate. They transported him to Ireland where he spent six years in captivity. (There is some dispute over where this captivity took place. Although many believe he was taken to live in Mount Slemish in County Antrim, it is more likely that he was held in County Mayo near Killala.) During this time, he worked as a shepherd, outdoors and away from people. Lonely and afraid, he turned to his religion for solace, becoming a devout Christian. (It is also believed that Patrick first began to dream of converting the Irish people to Christianity during his captivity.)
Familiar with the Irish language and culture, Patrick chose to incorporate traditional ritual into his lessons of Christianity instead of attempting to eradicate native Irish beliefs. For instance, he used bonfires to celebrate Easter since the Irish were used to honoring their gods with fire. He also superimposed a sun, a powerful Irish symbol, onto the Christian cross to create what is now called a Celtic cross, so that veneration of the symbol would seem more natural to the Irish. (Although there were a small number of Christians on the island when Patrick arrived, most Irish practiced a nature-based pagan religion.) The Irish culture centered around a rich tradition of oral legend and myth. When this is considered, it is no surprise that the story of Patrick's life became exaggerated over the centuries-spinning exciting tales to remember history has always been a part of the Irish way of life.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETING
Tomorrow evening beginning at 7:30pm is our next Parents and Friends Meeting. We had a terrific St Pat's Night coordinated by our P & F and I encourage all to come along and get involved in this very committed group who are saving money this year for a school bus.

MIDDLE SCHOOL INTERIM REPORT MEETINGS
This evening from 4:30pm – 6:30pm, Middle School teachers will be meeting with parents to update on student progress made this term. I encourage all parents to come along and make time to meet their child’s teacher and see how they are tracking this year to date. Please contact the school office for an appointment time.

HOLY WEEK
This Sunday is Passion Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week, when we travel with Jesus on His final journey leading up to His death on Good Friday and resurrection on Easter Sunday. It is the most important week in our church year. We will be celebrating Holy Week with a liturgy on Holy Thursday being led by our Year 8 students in the school hall beginning at 1:15 pm.

God Bless

Steve O’Halloran
Principal

Middle School News

“Top ‘o the mornin’ to you all” – a nod to St Patrick’s Day on 17 March and in recognition of our wonderful St Patrick’s Mass and dinner held on our school grounds last Saturday. The P&F working in conjunction with our Year 10 Business class and Miss Slattery, organised a lovely event despite reduced numbers this year. It is always difficult to avoid the inevitable sporting club events, but then the fun fair rolled into town! I think we managed to drown out the fairground music with our beautiful liturgical singing from everyone in the congregation and then later on with the toe-tapping routines from the Liz Newton dance Academy and the acoustic tunes from the Gassy River Band.
Any large event such as this would not be possible without our generous sponsors and supporters:

- Amcal Pharmacy
- R&L Couriers
- Norwest Surf
- Heddi’s Hair Salon
- Carnarvon Sports
- BelB Beauty Therapy
- Carnarvon Menswear
- Jewels by the Sea
- Port Hotel
- Gascoyne Office Equipment
- Australia Post
- Barry Evans Furniture and Carpet
- Carnarvon Toyworld
- Liz Newton Dance Academy
- Gassy River Band

Well done to all who came along and supported our P&F and our students, to raise funds for our eagerly awaited school bus and congratulations to the following who scooped up prizes on the night:

- Winner door prize: Connor McLeod ($50 Port Hotel)
- Winner women’s pamper package: Narelle Holtham
- Winner Carnarvon Essentials: Sue
- Winner kid’s pack: Carey Hodgson
- JLC colouring competition: Olivia (PP)
  - Yr 2-3: Sophia March
  - Yr4-6: Cindy Ho

I believe the $100 board was won by Mrs Anna Brooks – quite apt considering she is our very efficient and fastidious bursar. Our accounts are definitely in good hands!

The MS Parent Interim Report Meeting is scheduled for 16 March. I am hoping to meet several new parents on the night and to help celebrate successes not just chat about progress concerns. I hope that parents also see it as a great opportunity to meet their child’s teachers and to touch base on any questions they may have about the courses. Any parent who wishes to meet with a teacher but who is unable to make it on the night or who has been unable to get an appointment on the night due to full bookings, are encouraged to catch up with any of us after school. Please contact the front office to coordinate these appointments.

I received a toy heart with a frog, the other day from one of our Careers providers and I was interested to read about why they send these soft toys out to schools. I would like to share it with you so that we may remember to take a breath and be mindful that sometimes, we forget that everyone has a chance to ‘transform’ or change … just like the fairy tale frog that turns into a prince when kissed by the person who valued and believed in him – the princess, when a person feels truly understood and valued, conditions are created for magical transformation to grow and fulfil potential.

“The heart is associated with love, passion, enthusiasm and compassion. Connecting to what really motivates us, provides a positive flow of energy that sustains us and our creative spirit. Frogs are associated with new transformation, new beginnings, good fortune, prosperity, abundance, good health and safe travel. The frog also represents a symbol of transformation in fairy tales.”

Have a great week everyone.

Kind regards

Sam Da Luz
Head of Middle School
HOLY WEEK SERVICES at ST MARY STAR OF THE SEA CHURCH

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY 19/20 March Saturday 7pm, Sunday 8am and 10am

Please gather at the front of the church for the Procession into the church for 7pm and 8am Masses. For 10am Mass please assemble on the school basketball courts for Procession to the church. Please bring palm leaves to be blest.

EASTER PARISH RECONCILIATION— Please come on Thursday 17th March at any time between 6pm and 6.50pm and pray to Jesus exposed in the Blessed Sacrament with the opportunity for Reconciliation. Mass to celebrate St Patrick’s Feast Day will follow.

ST JOSEPH SOLEMNITY—There will be an extra solemn Mass on Saturday 19th March at 9am to celebrate the Feast Day of St Joseph. Please come and join us.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK / HEALING MASS—TUESDAY 22 March at 10:00am
Everyone is welcome to this Mass, in particular anyone who is unwell. If you know of anyone who would like to come but who is unable to due to lack of transport please advise Fr Mauriusz on 99411768

HOLY THURSDAY—24th March—Mass of the Lord’s Supper 7:00pm
GOOD FRIDAY— 25th March— Stations of the Cross 10:00am
Passion of the Lord 3:00pm

HOLY SATURDAY 26th March—
Blessing of Easter Food 11:00am (Bring your basket of food you will be preparing for Easter to be blest )

EASTER VIGIL 7:00pm
This service commences with the lighting of the Easter Candle. Please bring your own candles to the church with a protector to stop wax dripping onto the floor.

EASTER SUNDAY 27th March— The Resurrection of the Lord 8:00am
10:00am
News from Parish

LENT Stations of the Cross will be held each Friday at 7pm followed by Mass.
Lenten Program Every Wednesday after 7pm Mass - held at the Parish Office.
Passion Sunday - Year 2 Class Mass 10am - 20th March
Good Friday - 25th March
Easter Vigil - 26th March
Easter Sunday - 27th March
Easter Monday - 28th March
Easter Tuesday - 29th March
MS3 and MS4 Homeroom Mass - Sunday 3rd April

CAN YOU PLEASE HELP?

Our School is an integral part of the Parish, and we are appealing for help from Parents to commit to the Rosters in the Church. We need names on the Reading Roster, the Power Point Roster and especially the Cleaning Roster. There is a roster sheet on the table at the back of the Church or you can leave your name with Anna Brooks if you are prepared to commit to a Roster. The more names we can have the less times your name comes around. If you can spare just 1 hour with a partner to clean the Church it would be so very much appreciated.

We do all expect the Church to be kept nice but we need people to help do this. Thank you all for considering this request.

Yvonne Fahl, Parish Council Secretary

News from the Bursar

SCHOOL FEES
Please remember to complete your Payment Options form and return it to the school. This indicates your commitment to the school with regards to your fees. Forms will be sent out with accounts to any families who have not returned their form. If you have any queries please call Anna on 99411328.

FEE CONCESSIONS
Holders of Centrelink Health Care and Pension Cards may be eligible to receive Fee Discounts. The card must be current and show the names of the children attending school. The discount can only be given to the person responsible for payment of the school fees. The discounts are available for students from Kindy to Year 10.

Secondary Student Assistance Parents who hold either card and have children in Yrs 7 – 10 may also be eligible for the Education Dept Secondary Student Assistance. Applications for Secondary Assistance close on Friday 8th April.

All families claiming fee discounts MUST complete new forms for 2016. Please bring your card with you as we are required to sight and copy the card.

Thankyou. Anna Brooks
MS3’s Gratitude Tree

Lent is a time of reflection and preparation. We take the time to think of others who are less fortunate than ourselves. Project Compassion shows us how we can help those people to have better lives.

MS3 are showing our gratitude for our gifts by growing apples on our Gratitude Tree.

Every apple we place on the Gratitude Tree helps support those who need our help.

We are grateful for your help!

For a $2 donation to MS3’s Project Compassion fund, you can share with the whole school what you are grateful for this Lenten Season.

Apples available Tuesday lunch times during Lent.
St Mary’s Footy Tipping 2016
JOIN IN THE FUN! First Game Thurs 24th March

A huge prize pool of $4500!

End of Season Prizes
1st $2000  2nd $500  3rd $300  4th $200  5th $100  25th $50  50th $50
$50 to the highest scoring tipper with the closest margin
(highest cumulative margin will determine winner if necessary)

Weekly Prize

Early Registration Prize
$100 - drawn from Registrations paid by Thursday 17th March 2016

Check it out at www.footytips.com.au  Competition Name “St Marys Carnarvon”

Played online before? Then just login with your old username and password - forgotten your password…
click the “Forgot Password?” tab and check your emails!

* Please note: If we receive less or more than 180 registrations the prize pool may be reduced or increased accordingly!

Any queries please contact: Karen Gilbert 0428553390 or Robyn Bumbak 0437171040

PLEASE COMPLETE THE REGISTRATION FORM BELOW AND SIGN UP ONLINE

Thank you for your support!

_________________________________________________________
ST MARY’S FOOTY TIPPING REGISTRATION 2016

NAME: ___________________________ ALIAS (name shown on ladder): ___________________________

EMAIL: ___________________________ PHONE No.: ___________________________

Pd $50  CASH
CHEQUE  PAYABLE TO “Carnarvon Catholic Parish”
ONLINE  BSB: 016 610  A/No: 255972645  Reference: FSurname&initial

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Please return form and payment to the St Mary’s school office by Thursday 17th of March to be eligible for
EARLY REGISTRATION PRIZE draw!

_________________________________________________________
ST MARY’S FOOTY TIPPING REGISTRATION 2016

NAME: ___________________________ ALIAS (name shown on ladder): ___________________________

EMAIL: ___________________________ PHONE No.: ___________________________

Pd $50  CASH
CHEQUE  PAYABLE TO “Carnarvon Catholic Parish”
ONLINE  BSB: 016 610  A/No: 255972645  Reference: FSurname&initial

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Please return form and payment to the St Mary’s school office by Thursday 17th of March to be eligible for
EARLY REGISTRATION PRIZE draw!
2016 School Calendar
The 2015 Year 10 Students are proud to announce that the 2016 School Calendar is now available. The calendars feature several images from each class. All proceeds raised will go towards the purchasing of a new school bus.

School Calendars are now $10 each and available for sale at the school office.

Bookclub
Bookclub is due back to the office on Wednesday 16th March. No late orders will be accepted.

Thank you
Tracy Fernihough
Bookclub Co-ordinator

I ♥ Book Club

Carnarvon School Dentist
The school dentist is now open now until Thursday 17th March and is situated at the Carnarvon Community College Marmion Street Campus.