To the St Peter’s community,
This week’s Gospel (John 15:1-8) illustrates for us that Jesus is the true vine and God is the grower. We are the branches on that vine, and the Father would be pleased to see the branches bear fruit. The vine survives the trimming of its branches, but the branches do not survive without the vine. The vine is the very source of life, the branches play their part in relationship to the vine, producing much fruit.

This is a parable about becoming Jesus’ disciples. It is about glorifying God with our lives. It is about the possibility of connection with the Christ and the productivity that results from this. As long as we remain in Jesus we will be that branch bearing fruit. “Remaining in Him” began for us with baptism, and continues throughout our lives with the rest of the Sacraments.

We are reminded that we are always connected to Jesus. And through that connection, we can discover and develop our talents for changing the world. We also can use that connection to call for help in our times of struggle.

Like any relationship, the more you connect with Jesus, the stronger the connection becomes. So connect with Jesus through prayer, participation in Mass, helping others and acknowledging with gratitude the Grace in your life. You’ll feel the connection growing. And the more you strengthen that connection, the easier it will be to live the life God wants for you.

We pray:
Risen Lord, you are the true vine and we are the branches. By your Spirit, produce the fruit of love, joy, peace, and patience in me for others to taste and enjoy. Keep me from hanging on to love for myself. Prune all selfishness from me and fill me with your love.
In your mercy Lord, hear my prayer, Amen

We should ask ourselves, “What ‘fruit’ am I producing?” “How much?” “Is it an acceptable quality?” These are good questions if we understand and ask them as questions about the quality of our lives. That’s what Jesus is after. That is the deeper question he is provoking. It is the invitation to join the dialogue, be active and present, connected, to participate, and to live fully alive. That only happens when the life, the love, and the goodness and holiness of Christ flow in us and through us.

This week we explored this through our Sacrament Family Workshops, the strength of our connection with Jesus and with one another. Love for Jesus, one another, and ourselves become one love. Please keep our students in your prayers as they explore the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation and prepare themselves to connect more deeply with God during these special moments of Grace.

Have a wonderful weekend,

Kerry Miller
Principal

ADMINISTRATION
2019 Enrolments
To all current St Peter’s families that have a child commencing Prep in 2019, please return your enrolment application or pick one up from the office if you haven’t already.

LOST PROPERTY
The Prep staff have lots of jumpers and sport jackets without names or names which have come off in the wash. Can you please check that all items of your child’s uniform is clearly labelled. Thank you.

DATES TO REMEMBER

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>To</th>
<th>From</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall - Tuesday 8th May</td>
<td>Mother’s Day celebration with students morning of Thursday 10th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>STEAM Assembly - Friday 27th April 2.45pm</td>
<td>St Peter’s Trivia Night - Friday 1st June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior School Playdate - Saturday 29th April, 10am</td>
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Deborah Racina - Director of First Impressions office@stprepp.catholic.edu.au
Thank you so much to the families and staff who attended our Family Sacramental workshops. Feedback from the evening was very positive, focusing on how worthwhile the community conversation was. The family prayers prayed together to conclude our evening reflected a deeper understanding of sacrament and appreciation for the support of family, friends and the school community as we journey closer to God.

Some feedback comments included:
- Coming together as a community was a great opportunity to learn about sacraments.
- Introduction was helpful, connections between sacraments and our daily life, opportunity for parent/child workshop was helpful.
- Listening to each others answer give me a deeper awareness of people in our school community.
- I think the whole evening went great and I have a better understanding of sacraments.
- A really nice way to connect with one another.

Sacrament information brochures, photography order forms and stoles for Reconciliation were given to families at the workshop so if you were unable to attend please contact your child's team leader so that you have this important information.

**LEARNING & TEACHING**

**Junior School News**

This week, the Junior students explored a provocation about creating a character. They learnt about adjectives and had a go at using them to describe their character. Here you can see Bethany describing her character to Mia so that she can try and draw it accurately, using only the adjectives given. This would be a great activity to try at home as it will help us practice including lots of detail in our descriptions.

This week we have explored the following two provocations:
- **Who were the ANZACS?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LUCAS</th>
<th>ETHAN</th>
<th>NIYAM</th>
<th>EMMA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The soldiers died because they were killing them.</td>
<td>I know soldiers died.</td>
<td>The soldiers died on the mountain.</td>
<td>The soldiers died.</td>
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- **What can you create to remember the ANZACS?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AMANDA</th>
<th>JULIENE</th>
<th>SHREYA AND PRASUMA</th>
<th>ARIANNA</th>
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NAPLAN TESTING

On Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th and Thursday 17th May the children in Years 3 and 5 will participate in NAPLAN (National Assessment Program—Literacy and Numeracy) testing. The timetable is as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9 am</td>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.30 am</td>
<td>Writing</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The assessment provides one small snapshot of each child’s learning in literacy and numeracy on this particular day in May. It will provide information about where your child is in his/her learning, and this will be communicated to you and the school later in Term 3. The report you receive will describe your child’s particular skills in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy, and how your child performed in relation to national benchmark standards; all information that most parents want to know about how your child is going. These national benchmarks are minimum acceptable standards for students across Australia.

Teachers are always available to talk with parents, and parents are invited to talk with teachers if you have concerns with your child’s progress. All children are different, and learn in different ways, at different stages but at St Peter's School we want all children to continually be moving on in their learning, achieve success and to be literate and numerate citizens of the future. Teachers at St Peter's School use many different ways to assess children, gather evidence to show their learning and use this to inform future directions.

NAPLAN tests fundamental skills rather than specific content, and as such is not a test for which students can study or drill. The best way you can help your child prepare for NAPLAN is to let them know that NAPLAN is just one part of their school program, and to encourage them to simply do the best they can on the day.

NAPLAN testing is just one type of assessment among many others that teachers use to form an understanding of each student’s learning achievements. Using one off testing to show how individual children or schools perform does not always give a true picture of learning, and the richness of what schools provide to meet the needs of all children.

Students in Years 3 and 5 need to arrive punctually (by 8.55am) for NAPLAN testing on these particular days as late arrivals will miss essential instructions and cause disruption to other students. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Parents of students in Years 3 and 5 will receive an information pamphlet further outlining the NAPLAN testing process. Please ensure your child has a HB pencil, eraser and sharpener for NAPLAN testing.

An individual student NAPLAN report will be issued by the school later this year. More information is available at www.nap.edu.au.

Julie Percy - Director of Learning & Teaching juliep@stprepp.catholic.edu.au

SCHOOL COMMUNITY
Walk to School Day

We would like to inform you that on the 2nd of May we will be holding Walk To School Day. Walkers will depart from their starting points on all paths at 8:15 am sharp.

Students who participate are able to wear their sports uniform with a splash of their house colours.

Starting points for these paths are outlined below:

Purple Path: Corner Davison St And McDonalds Rd, in front of Darebin Creek Park sign.
Pink Path: The playground on Hendersons Rd, near Kantike Drive.
Green Path: Corner of Dalton Rd and Grand Parade.
Blue Path: Departing from Peppercom Park on the corner of Keith Ave.

There will be a St Peter’s staff member joining the walkers on all paths. All walkers will receive a piece of fruit and house point upon arrival at school in acknowledgement for their efforts.

If you intend to walk or ride to school, please indicate on the google form how many participants will attend so we are able to ensure we order fruit accordingly. Many thanks, The Year 6 Spirit Leaders.
50 DAYS OF SCHOOL
On Wednesday May 9th the Preps will be celebrating 50 days of school and we are all incredibly excited! There are several activities we need the students to complete at home and have ready to bring to school when completed. There will be a special Note coming to give you all the necessary details.

Junior School Play Date
A reminder that this Sunday 29th April at 10am the junior school play date will take place at Bundoora Park, 1069 Plenty Rd, Bundoora. Enter from Plenty Rd then turn right at the first intersection for parking and meet near the playground. BYO snacks, drinks, picnic chairs, rugs, sports equipment etc. BBQ and toilet facilities available at the park. Please note, while this event is being organised by St Peter’s School, staff will NOT be present on the day. Parents will be required to stay with and supervise their children. All welcome to come along.

Celebrating Mother’s Day at St Peter’s
A reminder about the following two events that will take place in celebration of Mother’s Day:

Mother’s Day Breakfast Celebration at St Peter’s: Mothers and other special women are invited to join students and staff of St Peter’s to celebrate Mother’s Day with breakfast and activities on Thursday 10th May in the Galilee Space. Breakfast will be served for students and their Mums from 8:45 am until 9:30 am. Learning spaces will be open between 9-11am to join in learning experiences with your children. RSVP by Friday 4th May for breakfast catering purposes.

Mother’s Day Dinner: Mothers and other special women are invited to get together for a ladies’ night out in celebration of Mother’s Day. Friday 11th May, 7pm at the Bridge Inn Hotel, 1425 Plenty Rd, Mernda. RSVP by Friday 4th May for booking purposes. (Meals and drinks to be paid for individually on the night).

Emma Canning - Director of School Community
ecanning@stprepp.catholic.edu.au

STUDENT WELLBEING
Middle school update
On Monday morning, the middle school did circle time. We started with a warm up where students could identify things in common that they have with other students, then we moved onto our focus which was ‘How we can help others’. Each student had the opportunity to share a time when they have helped someone and how it made that person feel. Then we brought it back to school and looked at how we can help our peers both in and out of our learning space. Responses varied including sharing equipment to seeing a lonely face on yard and including them in their game. Students wrote response on a card and we made a display to remind ourselves that a kind word or action can really help make someone’s day.

PLAYPOD
Today was the first day of the playpod being opened. There was great excitement from the children as they created, designed, played and negotiated.
There were castles being designed, shelters being made to rest in, ramps to run up and slide down, forts being made and many many more creations.

The children were all working collaboratively and there was problem solving, negotiating and fun being had.

Once again any recycled materials are most welcome.

**CYBER NEWS**

It is important that our children are using skills they learn in other areas of the curriculum, to the technology they are using. Some big skills are:

- **Critical Thinking** - the ability to examine information the read/see and make an informed judgement on it. This is important online when things can be changed, manipulated or taken out of context.

- **Empathy** - students demonstrate empathy when seeing things online and respond to others taking into account their feelings and beliefs.

- **Respect** - have regard for the rights, feelings and opinions of others.

- **Resilience** - the ability to bounceback from stressful situations

- **Responsibility** - understanding our rights and obligations eg right to privacy and doing the right thing legally

This information and much much more is available on the link below

[Office of the eSafety Commissioner: eSafety Homepage](https://www.esafety.gov.au)

Jackie Fleischmann - Director of Student Wellbeing  jfleischmann@stprepp.catholic.edu.au
The Catholic Parish of Epping, Epping North

Parish Office and St Peter’s Church: 13 Davidson St, Epping Ph 9401 6300
St Mary of the Cross Mackillop
Cnr Redding Rise & Farmhouse Blvd, Epping North

email: epping@cam.org.au
web site: www.cam.org.au/epping

Parish Priest: Fr Anh Nguyen
Assistant Priest: Fr Joel Pearl

Weekend Masses:
St Peter’s
Saturday 7.15pm,
Sunday 9am & 10.30am
St Mary of the Cross Mackillop
Saturday 5.30pm

Weekday Masses:
St Peter’s
9.15am Tuesday - Friday
Reconciliation:
Saturday 10.30 am – 11 am

Children’s Liturgy of the Word every week:
St Mary of the Cross Mackillop 5.30pm
St Peter’s 10.30am

Northern Hospital - Catholic Chaplain:
Rosemary Bolter 9401 6300
Fr Fayez Assaf

Administration
[Mon-Tue 9-3pm, Wed & Fri 9-1pm] - Michelle Hood

Business Manager/Accountant
[Tues, Wed, Thurs 9-4pm] - Gill Bell

Baptisms: By appointment, three months notice is required. Parents are required to prepare for their child’s baptism by attending a Baptism Preparation evening.
Contact: Christine Hall 9401 6311

Sacramental Preparation
Pastoral Associate:
Sandy Starbuck 9401 6312

Marriages: by appointment. Please contact the parish office.

Schools
St Peter’s Epping Ph 9401 1157
St Mary of the Cross Mackillop
Epping North Ph 8432 4000
St Monica’s Epping Ph 9409 8800
St Vincent de Paul 1800 305 330

We are committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children in our Church

The Catholic Parish of Epping, Epping North

Fifth Sunday of Easter – Year B
Sunday, 29 April 2018

FIRST READING: Acts 9:26-31
A reading from the Acts of the Apostles
He explained how the Lord appeared to Saul and spoke to him on his journey.
When Saul got to Jerusalem he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him: they could not believe he was really a disciple. Barnabas, however, took charge of him, introduced him to the apostles, and explained how the Lord had appeared to Saul and spoken to him on his journey, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus. Saul now started to go round with them in Jerusalem, preaching fearlessly in the name of the Lord. But after he had spoken to the Hellenists, and argued with them, they became determined to kill him. When the brothers knew, they took him to Caesarea, and sent him off from there to Tarsus.
The churches throughout Judaea, Galilee and Samaria were now left in peace, building themselves up, living in the fear of the Lord, and filled with the consolation of the Holy Spirit.

(R.) I will praise you, Lord, in the assembly of your people.
1. My vows I will pay before those who fear him.
The poor shall eat and shall have their fill. They shall praise the Lord, who, so seek him. May their hearts live for ever and ever! (R.)
2. All the earth shall remember and return to the Lord, all families of the nations worship before him. They shall worship him, all the mighty of the earth; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust. (R.)
3. And my soul shall live for him, my children serve him. They shall tell of the Lord to generations yet to come, declare his faithfulness to peoples yet unborn: ‘These things the Lord has done.’ (R.)

SECOND READING: 1 Thess 3:16-24
A reading from the first letter of St John
His commandments are these: that we believe and that we love one another.
My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk, but something real and active; only by this can we be certain that we are the children of the truth and be able to quenish our conscience in its presence, whatever accusations it may raise against us, because God is greater than our conscience and he knows everything.
My dear people, if we cannot be comforted by our own conscience, we need not be afraid in God’s presence, and whatever we ask him, we shall receive, because he keeps his commandments and live the kind of life that he wants. His commandments are these: that we believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another just as he told us to. Whoever keeps his commandments lives in God and God lives in him.
We know that he lives in us by the Spirit that he has given us.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: In 15:4-5
Alleluia, alleluia!
Live in me and let me live in you, says the Lord; my branches bear much fruit.
Alleluia!

Pope Francis’ new exhortation: Jesus ‘wants us to be saints’
“Holiness is the most attractive face of the Church,” Pope Francis declares in a new apostolic exhortation. In it, he reminds Christians, “The Lord asks everything of us, and in return he offers us true life, the happiness for which we were created. He wants us to be saints and not to settle for a bland and mediocre existence.”

Introducing the 104-page document, “Gaudete et Exsultate” (“Rejoice and Be Glad”), Francis says his “modest goal” is “to re-proposal the call to holiness in a practical way for our own time, with all its risks, challenges and opportunities.” He reminds believers that “the Lord has chosen each one of us ‘to be holy and blameless before him in love’ and ‘that the call to holiness is present in various ways from the very first pages of the Bible.’” -Continued on next page.

Let us pray for the sick: Justin Borden, Maggie Sugaria, Mazened Francis, Grace LeTin,
Jo Bonicci, Rebecca Englezakis, Jason Azzilla, Nicholas Ludersamy, Palomera Tanse, Cheryl D’sa, Mark Paul Flavie, Rita Carusi, Dominic Pratício, Jamey Hoorigan, Jay Larkes, Jennifer Harbourg, Shanon Farrugia, Patricia DelSilvo, Sabrina Jansz, Carmel McKenzie, Janie Pinkston, Faten Elmenawi, Kathy Rockwell, Michael & Roni Donovan, Carmen Caruana, Patricia Osborne, Rosa Maria Santos, Mario Paola, Laura Pattrullo, Patsy Heffernan, Dean Serrell, Jean Callaghan, James Sheppard, Madison Parker, Barbara L’Oiseau, Mary Attard.

Recently Decreesed:
Anniversaries: Mary Lane, Edgar O’Brien, Rekai Bignoux Myriam Bagwonderen, Ammemarie Yan Yeu Pang Simon Godinho,

Rite of Welcome for Baptism
Lita Ruby Pereira
In the new exhortation, Francis emphasized that the following of Christ—the path to holiness—is “a way of life,” not an intellectual exercise.

In the new exhortation, Francis emphasized that the following of Christ—the path to holiness—is “a way of life,” not an intellectual exercise. This has been the consistent theme and spiritual underpinning of his entire Petrine ministry. As priest, bishop and now pope, he has always sought “to live the Gospel” as Jesus asked. From the first day of his pontificate he has emphasized action over theological discussion; he has insisted that Jesus calls us “to live” the Gospel, by putting into practice in daily life the beatitudes and the words of Jesus in the chapter 25 of Matthew that refer to feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger.

He stated this theme clearly in his first apostolic exhortation, ‘Evangelii Gaudium’ (“The Joy of the Gospel,” Nov. 2013), which is the programmatic document for his pontificate. He brought this out powerfully in the encyclical ‘Laudato Si’ in 2015, which was a call to action to care for our common home. He did so again in his second exhortation, ‘Amoris Laetitia’ (“The Joy of Love”), released in 2016 following the synod on the family, where in chapter 4 he spelled out what “love in marriage” means by unpacking St. Paul’s hymn to love (1 Cor. 13). He affirmed it again strongly in the Jubilee Year of Mercy (2016-2017) when he taught that mercy “is the beating heart of the Gospel” and showed how this can be put into practice in daily life through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. He asserts it forcefully again today in his third exhortation, where in chapter 3 he unpacks, in a way that can be easily understood by all believers, even without sophisticated theological education, what it means for a Christian to live the Beatitudes and the demands of Matthew 25 in daily life.

His message is clear: Christ has explained in simple terms what it means to follow him, but “the doctors of the law” have complicated it with their legalism and casuistry and have placed “heavy burdens” on people’s shoulders with their closed theology and moral teaching. He wants to free Christ’s teaching from these shackles, and this has upset not a few cardinals, bishops, priests, lay intellectuals and faithful, who have complained, especially following “Amoris Laetitia” and the Jubilee of Mercy, that Francis’ approach creates confusion about teaching, especially in the field of morality.

In today’s exhortation, Francis appears to respond to such critiques and concerns. He does so in chapter 2 by exposing “two subtle enemies of holiness,” or ancient heresies, that many of them appear to have fallen into: Gnosticism, which reduces Christ’s teaching to a cold and harsh logic that seeks to dominate everything; and Pelagianism, which tends to give the idea that all things are possible to human will and downplays the grace of God. Francis responds to his critics again in chapter 3 by pointing to “the ideologies” that strike at the heart of the Gospel and lead Christians into “two harmful errors”: the first error is found in those Christians who “separate these Gospel demands from their personal relationship with God,” the second is found in those believers who “find suspect the social engagement of other Christians, seeing it as superficial, worldly, secular, materialist, communist or populist,” or who “relativize it as if there are more important matters” or assert that “the only thing that counts is one particular issue or cause that they themselves defend.” (see more next weekend)

May: The Month of Mary
The month of May, a month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. We are delighted and consoled by this pious custom associated with the month of May, which pays honor to the Blessed Virgin and brings such rich benefits to the Christian people. Since Mary is rightly to be regarded as the way by which we are led to Christ, the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ likewise.

“Mary, mother of Jesus, give me your heart, so beautiful, so pure, so immaculate, so full of love and humility; make me capable of receiving Jesus in the bread of life, of loving him as you have loved him and have served him, in the poor garments of the poorest poor. Amen.”
Mother Teresa of Calcutta

May 13th Our Lady of Fatima (Optional Feast)
May 24th Our Lady, Help of Christians, Patron of Australia (Solemnity)
May 31st The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Feast)

Feast Days of Our Lady during May

OPEN DAY: MARY MACKILLOP CENTRE
Saturday 5 May, 10am–4pm
362 Albert Street, East Melbourne
The Mary Mackillop Museum tells the inspiring story of Australia’s St Mary of the Cross Mackillop. On Open Day at the Heritage Centre, there’ll be a guided Mary Mackillop Walking Tour at 11am, morning or afternoon tea available between 11am and 3pm, and an all-day opportunity to pray in Mary’s chapel, tour the museum, and visit the Mary Mackillop gift shop. Everyone welcome.
Details: 9926 9300 or admin.mmmhc@sosj.org.au

DOWNLOAD FLYER AT THIS LINK:

New School Principal
Tim Kelly has been appointed to be Principal of Glowrey Catholic Parish Primary School in Wollert.
Let us pray blessings on him as he goes forward into his role as Principal of the new school.

School families
ALL SCHOOL FAMILIES THAT HAVE NOT MADE ARRANGEMENTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE 2018 PARISH CONTRIBUTION OF $400 PER ANNUM
Your commitment to be part of the Catholic Parish of Epping, Epping North by having your child/children enrolled at our Parish Schools calls you to contribute this amount to the Parish Contribution. PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS

Charismatic Prayer Group meets every Friday a St Peter’s 7.30pm. All Welcome
Church cleaning Saturday 5 May—volunteer

If you would like an item anniversary included in the weekly Newsheet it is important that you have it to the Parish Office by Wednesday morning
Contact 9401 6300 or email epping@cam.org.au

Our Parish recognises the Aboriginal heritage of this country and acknowledges the Wurundjeri Willum Clan as the traditional owners of this place.