Dear Parents,

The father said, "My son, you are with me always and all I have is yours. But it is only right we should celebrate and rejoice, because your brother here was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."


We all heard the warnings our parents gave us about hanging around with those deadbeats, delinquents, troublemakers, recalcitrants and ratbags. Who knows what kind of trouble you’d find yourself in? Needless to say, despite the warnings, we did hang out with them – and in the end most of us turned out quite okay, a few lessons learned, a few brushes with the ‘dark side’.

The word ‘prodigal’ has received some rough press. Because we know how hard end the young man (of the parable fame) was, we tend to think that prodigal means ungrateful or sinful. In fact it has its origin in the Latin word prodigus for lavish or extravagant. Many prefer to call Luke’s parable of the prodigal son, the parable of the forgiving father. I would prefer to call it the parable of the prodigal father. For here is a most extraordinary father. One must assume that this young man had received a sound and God-fearing upbringing, and that his father, though perhaps disappointed with his son’s choice, allowed him the space to choose.

This sounds like the ideal parent, but you would have to wonder what on earth could be going through his mind. Did he fear for his son’s life as he fell into bad company? Did he hope in his heart of hearts that his son would see the error of his ways and return home? Did he think of his elder son, of his fidelity? For here is a father whose love is so lavish, so generous, so welcoming, and so forgiving, that we are not surprised by his elder son’s complaint.
In this parable we are able to see ourselves in each of the characters: the father for whom nothing is more important than loving forgiveness; the elder son who struggles to reconcile his steadiness and fidelity with the lavishness of his father’s welcome to his wayward brother; the younger son who wants to stretch his legs, see the world, burn up his inheritance, and who despite knowing his offences, believes that even as a servant, he is better off at home.

This is a deeply rich story, for Jesus uses it as a metaphor for our relationship with God. For only God’s extravagant love has the capacity to forgive everything and yet still honour those who are steadfast and faithful.

This parable comes to us on this coming 4th Sunday of Lent as a challenge to our world-weary view on young people. Yes, our children will give us a hard time, but they need us to have that longer vision that helps us see to the horizon, constantly on the lookout for their return. You must let them go, and you must always leave the door ajar.

Peter Douglas
HEAD OF SCHOOL SERVICES, NORTH

Last week Fr Anthony blessed our Student School Leaders as they were inducted into their roles as Student Leaders. Fr Richard was always generous in the amount of water that he used to Bless the students and I. Fr Anthony is even more generous in his liberal use of water than Fr Richard. Difficult to imagine but true! Fr Anthony was so inspired by the resilience of our student leaders that he blessed the whole school, who were not as enthusiastic in being blessed by a lot of water. Fr Anthony is a great addition to our Parish and School Community and will support Fr Mark in the great work they do for and with us.

This week is very busy with the Kindergarten and Prep teachers attending Professional Development on Tuesday. The Gr 1/2 teachers will be attending Professional Development on Wednesday. This means that your child will have a relief teacher for this day. These days are scheduled Professional Development opportunities run by the Catholic Education Office and focus on developing the skills specific to Grade Levels and the opportunity to create networks across schools.

This week the Focus Reading Groups will continue from Wednesday to Friday. The response from students has been very positive. This initiative was discussed last year with the teachers as a group who were positive regarding this change. St Finn Barr’s has been making steady progress in improving the educational outcomes of our students. However, we want our students to do even better which is why we have introduced Focus Reading Groups. In adopting this change we looked at what other things we needed to change. Daily PE has been a feature of SFB for more than ten years. It has a number of benefits. However, it involves at least 25 minutes every day (5 minutes movement, 15 mins exercise and again 5 min moving). Combined with the 5-10 fruit break adopted by all classes, this resulted in up to 40 minutes of non-teaching time every day in the morning block before recess. By eliminating Morning PE we are providing your child with over 2 hours of learning time in the morning block. This will be beneficial for your child.

On Tuesday we are having our Swimming Carnival. Many thanks to Anthony Hielscher for all his hard work in preparing the Carnival. Many thanks to all the parents who are assisting in the running of the Carnival. We will run the Carnival as closely to the scheduled timetable as possible.

Have a great week.

Anthony Healey.
Principal.
REC News

Prayer
Loving God, we are changed because you love us.
Help us to know the depth of your love so that we may never be afraid to speak and act in your name.
Shine your light on us so that our hearts and minds are open to doing your will.
Amen.

Reconciliation - Reminder
Reconciliation Parent Meeting – Tuesday, 1st March at Sacred Heart Church, Newstead at 7:30 p.m.

World’s Greatest Shave
Matthew Burns, Gr 3/4 Hyatt, has decided to participate in this year’s World’s Greatest Shave. Leanne Brown from Lotus Hair Design at Jimmy’s Complex has very kindly offered to come to St Finn Barr’s on Friday, 11th March at 10.30 am.

Leanne suggests to assist Matthew’s fund raising that students could assist her in shaving sections of Matthew’s head for a gold coin donation.

Matthew’s sister Lillian, Gr 1/2 Vunaki-Maleki has decided to colour her hair.

Would you like to help Matthew and Lillian raise money for the World’s Greatest Shave?

Leanne will also be able to colour students’ hair for a gold coin donation. Please discuss with your child whether they should or should not have their hair coloured. If your child lines up with a gold coin then they will be able to have their hair coloured.
ST FINN BARR’S SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2016

ORDER OF EVENTS

**Start 9.30am**  66m Freestyle

33m Freestyle

* Novelty races/play in separate pool

10.50am  33m Backstroke

11.30am  33m Breaststroke

12.00pm  15m Freestyle

* Novelty races/play in separate pool

12.40pm  15m Backstroke

1.20pm  15m Breaststroke

* Novelty races/play in separate pool

1.50pm  Relays Grades 3-6 then Parents/Staff/Students

2.00pm  Presentations (Overall Winning House and Relay Shield)

*Races will commence with Grade 3 students working up to Grade 6 students.*

*N.B. The above times are approximate only*
Student of the Week

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Reason</th>
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<tr>
<td>Prep</td>
<td>Scott Binns</td>
<td>for a great start to Prep</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 1/2</td>
<td>Xavier Ombao</td>
<td>for his calm &amp; gentle nature &amp; having a positive attitude towards all that he does</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade 3/4</td>
<td>Isabella Russell</td>
<td>for her dedication to all subjects</td>
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St Finn Barr's School Swimming Carnival

A reminder that the Swimming Carnival for students in Grades 3-6 is being held on Tuesday, 1st March at the Riverside Pool. Buses will depart from school at **8.45 am sharp**.

Children will need the following items for the Carnival.
- Wear Sports Uniform including school hat
- Coloured House t-shirt (optional)
- Swimming cap (House colour for long haired children)
- Bring bathers and towel
- Morning tea and lunch
- Extra water
- Sunblock

To assist Teachers, and to be fair to all children, we would ask that parents DO NOT buy children items from the canteen during the Carnival. Feel free to purchase at the conclusion of the Carnival.

GRADE 5/6 FRIDAY SPORT – FRIDAY 4TH MARCH

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<th>Sport</th>
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<td>Hardball Cricket</td>
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<td>Super 10’s Div 1</td>
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<td>Faulkner Park 4</td>
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<td>T-Ball Div 1</td>
<td>LPS</td>
<td>SOC - TB1</td>
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<td>T-Ball Div 2 - SFB 1</td>
<td>SA</td>
<td>SOC - TB7</td>
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<td>T-Ball Div 2 - SFB 2</td>
<td>LCS 1</td>
<td>SOC - TB6</td>
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<td>T-Ball Div 2 - SFB 3</td>
<td>STM</td>
<td>SOC - TB8</td>
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<td>Girls Cricket - SFB 1</td>
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<td>Faulkner Park 9</td>
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<td>Girls Cricket - SFB 2</td>
<td>SOC 2</td>
<td>Faulkner Park 10</td>
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AFTER SCHOOL CARE

- Do you require After School Care for your child? Would you like your child to be in a calm relaxing environment with low ratios and a qualified and professional carer, and to be cared for as an individual rather than one of the crowd? School pick-up and afternoon tea provided as well as great activities and outings and Child Care Benefit available. If you are looking for that personal touch please contact Debby on: 63266308 or 0438 322 721 (Only 1 space left on a Monday and a Wednesday).

School Banking Account Opening Day

St Finn Barr’s Catholic School is excited to offer the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program to all students. The School Banking program provides children with an opportunity to deposit money into their Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at school each week. The program is about how often your child makes deposits, not how much they deposit. To encourage regular savings behaviour the program offers an exciting Rewards Program. Every deposit earns your child a Dollarmites token, and once they’ve collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for a reward.

School Banking day is Monday. Each week you need to drop your bank book into the school office before school on Monday morning (Kinder Young can leave their books in the office on Friday morning).

We will be holding an Account Opening Day at our school:

Time: 2.30 pm - 3.30 pm
Date: Thursday 3rd March
Location: The room opposite the school office.

If you are interested in opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account for your child please bring along your current driver’s licence or another form of photographic identification. Alternatively, you can open an account at your local branch. All you need to bring is your current identification as well as your child’s birth certificate. If you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer and have NetBank, you can open an account online.

2017 Kindergarten

The Catholic Primary Schools of Launceston invite prospective parents of 2017 Kindergarten students to Parent Information Evenings. We encourage parents to attend any information session of potential schools for their child. Listed below are dates and times for each school. If any further queries, please contact individual schools during office hours on numbers provided.

- St Thomas More’s Catholic School
  Wednesday 9th March 7:00pm
  6337 7200

- Sacred Heart Catholic School
  Thursday 10th March 7:00pm
  6331 1011

- Larmenier Catholic School
  Tuesday 15th March 7:00pm
  6339 1910

- St Finn Barr’s Catholic School
  Wednesday 16th March 7:00pm
  6326 3082

- St Anthony’s Catholic School
  Tuesday 22nd March 7:00pm
  6327 3618
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<td>SOROS Activity Day</td>
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CELEBRATING HOLY WEEK & EASTER  2016

LAUNCESTON PARISH

PARISH LENTEN RECONCILIATION (2ND RITE)
7.30PM, MONDAY 21ST MARCH AT ST FINN BARR’S CHURCH, INVERMAY

HOLY THURSDAY, 24 March
MASS OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

7.30pm Church of the Apostles
44 Margaret Street, Launceston

7.30pm Carmelite Monastery
7 Cambridge Street, West Launceston

GOOD FRIDAY, 25th March
STATIONS OF THE CROSS (OUTDOORS)

10.30am Church of the Apostles
COMMEMORATION OF THE LORD’S PASSION

3.00pm Church of the Apostles

3.00pm Carmelite Monastery

HOLY SATURDAY, 26th March
1ST RITE OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

10.00am Church of the Apostles
EASTER VIGIL & MASS OF THE RESURRECTION

7.30pm Church of the Apostles

11.00pm Carmelite Monastery

EASTER SUNDAY, 27th March

8.30am Carmelite Monastery (Please note time)

9.00am St Patrick’s College Chapel (Family Mass)
Cnr Mt Leslie & Westbury Roads, Prospect

9.00am St Finn Barr’s Church
247 Invermay Road, Invermay

10.30am Church of the Apostles

Please Note
NO 6.30pm EVENING MASS
at Church of the Apostles on Easter Sunday