From the Principal

Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s,

Gospel Reading of Sunday – 11th August, 2013

Luke 12:35-40

[Jesus said to his disciples:] “Gird your loins and light your lamps and be like servants who await their master’s return from a wedding, ready to open immediately when he comes and knocks. Blessed are those servants whom the master finds vigilant on his arrival. Amen, I say to you, he will gird himself, have them recline at table, and proceed to wait on them. And should he come in the second or third watch and find them prepared in this way, blessed are those servants. Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour when the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come.”

Reflection

Living in the hope of Christ’s return means that we become more vigilant and aware of Christ’s presence. Christ is present in countless ways around us, and knocks at the door of our hearts. Where can we encounter Christ? He is in the faces of joy and love, suffering and sadness. In word and in sacrament, Christ is always there. If we become aware of Christ already here, no longer will we be surprised by the arrival of the Son of Man. Awareness of his presence in our midst is our preparation.

Let us pray together:-

God-with-us,

Send us your Holy Spirit so that we can recognise and rejoice in the presence of your Son in our midst, and to prepare our hearts to welcome him fully now and at the end of time.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Year 2013 Early Years Assessment in Literacy. Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 results were outstanding.

85% of Kindergarten students are at or above bench mark
98.1% of Year 1 students are at or above bench mark
91.9% of Year 2 students are at or above bench mark.

We believe it takes the whole school to educate a child, therefore, congratulations to all the staff, students and parents for the quality teaching and support you give to all St Anthony’s students.

Many things are happening at St Anthony’s that are worth celebrating. Every day brings new learning to our community.

- The Year 6 students have presented their speeches, and the finalists will present their speeches to the school at Monday’s assembly.
- I received a lovely email from Mrs Michele Bowen regarding her attendance at the Cumberland Zone Athletics Carnival yesterday. ‘I just wanted to let you know how well the children represented St Anthony’s yesterday at the Athletics’ Carnival. They did the best they could in every event, they cheered their team mates on and they listened to all instructions. It made my day, we have some very talented athletes’.
- Peer Support has been running smoothly and this is due to the outstanding efforts of the group leaders, Year 5 and 6 students. Thank you to all.
- This coming Sunday a number of our students will be receiving Eucharist for the first time. On behalf of the St Anthony’s School community I wish them well in the next step of their faith journey.
- We welcome back Fr. Paul. It was great to see him at school last Friday and Tuesday morning. We missed Fr Paul very much.
- The mufti coin donation day was very profitable in contributing to the Spring Fair.
- Last Friday’s Disco evening run by the School Community Group Social team was amazing. All the students had a wonderful time. The
The school office will be closed from 1:30pm tomorrow due to the office staff attending the funeral of Mrs Brigden’s mother, Joan Watts. Mrs Laurie, Mrs Haig, Mrs Charlton and myself will be attending the funeral on behalf of the staff and school community. The funeral is at Pinegrove Cemetery at 2pm.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

The safety of every member of our school community is a high priority. It has been concerning, therefore, to see the safety of children put at risk at the afternoon car pick up in recent days. It is essential that all parents and carers follow our pick up procedure to ensure the safety of every child.

1. Teachers will call students to the footpath according to the signs displayed in car windows.
2. Parents are to remain in their car and move forward as cars at the front of the queue depart.
3. At the direction of teachers, students will enter their car from the footpath side only.
4. Only the first three cars in the queue will be loaded at any time; other students and parents must wait their turn. Parents may assist their children with seatbelts, etc.
5. The first three cars must then depart the pick up area in order. Please remember to check your mirrors and blind spots for passing traffic before pulling out.
6. In the morning parents are to go to the front of the line and drop their child/ren off and then proceed to depart the kiss and drop safely.

### AFTERNOON / MORNING KISS & DROP

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We appreciate your cooperation and patience in these matters. Following these procedures is the most effective way of ensuring that everybody gets home safely and efficiently. Double parking and pulling out into traffic without giving way is illegal at all times and leads to potentially dangerous situations both before and after school.

Another major concern is parents taking their children through the queue of cars to cross Girraween Road. This is extremely dangerous. Please set a good example for your children by walking up the road to a safer crossing point.

I ask all parents to ensure that these procedures are observed at all times.

**KEEP ALL CHILDREN SAFE AND DO THE RIGHT THING!!!!

Kind Regards**

**Cheryl Brown**  
**Principal**

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Today, the Church in Australia celebrates the feast day of our first (and so far only) canonised saint, Mary of the Cross. Born Mary MacKillop, St Mary saw the plight of children in remote areas that needed an education. She, with the support of Fr Julian Tenison Woods, founded the Sisters of St Joseph and established schools across Australia and New Zealand. We look to her for inspiration in responding to the will of God, especially by “never seeing a need without doing something about it”.

Next Thursday is the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Apart from Sundays, this is one of only two feast days in the entire Australian Church calendar that is set down as a Holy Day of Obligation, that is, that Catholics are expected to participate in Mass on that day. We celebrate that Mary was assumed body and soul into heaven, where she now intercedes for us.

### FIRST COMMUNION

The children of our parish, including many Year 4 students, celebrate their First Communion this weekend and next. They enter further into the fullness of life in the Catholic Church, receiving the Body and Blood of Christ for the first time. We congratulate them on this important step in their faith journey. Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

### Upcoming Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 8 August</td>
<td>Celebration of the Word, Solemnity of St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop), 9:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 10 August</td>
<td>First Holy Communion</td>
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FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
What’s Happening at St Anthony’s

VOICE OF YOUTH
This week Year Six held their Voice of Youth Trials to select candidates to represent St Anthony’s at the cluster finals, which will take place next Thursday. The first step in the Voice of Youth process involved all students in Year 6 preparing, writing and delivering a speech in the classroom. We would like to congratulate all the Year Six students for their efforts in writing their speeches. Each speech was well constructed and contained all the essential elements of a meaningful speech. We would also like to thank each student for putting themselves forward as candidates. As we all know public speaking takes a lot of courage. Your teachers are very proud of you. It gives me great pleasure to announce the successful candidates who are moving forward to the next phase, the cluster final. Congratulations to: Celeste Carroza (Vandalism); Natasha Lette, (Fruit) Amber Palmer, (Car Safety); and Ruth Kot (reserv) (Racism). We wish them best wishes for the finals. Our finalists will present their speeches to the whole school at the Monday morning assembly.

AUTISM DISORDER SPECTRUM COURSE
On Tuesday, Mrs Renee Henebery and Miss Elizabeth Younes completed their professional development course on ‘Autism Spectrum Disorder.’ Their learning involved gaining a deeper understanding of this complex disorder and investigating effective strategies to use at a classroom level. The workshop also provided opportunities for our teachers to learn how to create SMART goals for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder in order to support their learning outcomes. We look forward to seeing these strategies and goals in place within the classroom environment.

MORE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
George Couros – ‘The Networked Leader’ Workshop.
The Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta has invited George Couros, a sought-after speaker on the topic of innovative student learning and engagement, to work with teachers in the Diocese of Parramatta. Mr Couros is the Division Principal of Innovative Teaching and Learning in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. His focus is to help leaders and organisations create optimal learning environments for innovation within schools. In this workshop, which will be attended by Mr Mackey, Mrs Ward, Mrs Henebery and myself, George Couros will focus on some of the reasons we need to become networked, and then focus on the use of some tools such as Twitter and Blogs to help create an open environment for learning within our schools, that could lead to effective use of these technologies for learning by staff, ultimately creating great opportunities for our students. We look forward to sharing our new learnings with the St Anthony’s community in the near future.

PEER SUPPORT
Next Monday in Peer Support children will look at some of the reasons why bullying occurs and what sort of activities could be undertaken instead. Bullying behaviour is often the result of anger, loneliness, boredom or the desire for fun or attention. It is also linked to a lack of empathy by those doing the bullying. If children can encourage one another to engage in more productive activities then the incidence of bullying behaviour in our school may decrease.

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>KG</th>
<th>Lourdes Touma</th>
<th>KW</th>
<th>Mokshada Rane</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1G</td>
<td>Jai Wadhwa</td>
<td>1W</td>
<td>Anastasia McKay</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2G</td>
<td>Mia Brownlow</td>
<td>2W</td>
<td>Antonella Riskalla</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3G</td>
<td>Niak Makuei</td>
<td>3W</td>
<td>Angelina Makuac</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4G</td>
<td>Rahul Hosakere</td>
<td>4W</td>
<td>Corey Zammit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5G</td>
<td>Emily Brown</td>
<td>5W</td>
<td>Jayden Leeder</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6G</td>
<td>Lachlan Foley</td>
<td>6W</td>
<td>Christina Hanna</td>
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**CALENDAR**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>12 Aug</td>
<td>Peer Support continues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>13 Aug</td>
<td>ICAS Maths exam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>13 Aug</td>
<td>Australian Youth Choir visiting children</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>15 Aug</td>
<td>Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary Mass 12noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur</td>
<td>15 Aug</td>
<td>Year 6 - Voice of Youth – Greystanes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>19 Aug</td>
<td>Peer Support continues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>19 Aug</td>
<td>Peer Support continues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>20 Aug</td>
<td>Netball Gala Day – Penrith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>23 Aug</td>
<td>Parish Mass (Years K &amp; 5)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>26 Aug</td>
<td>Peer Support continues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed</td>
<td>28 Aug</td>
<td>Year 3 Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>30 Aug</td>
<td>Fathers’ Day Liturgy – 9:15am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>2 Sep</td>
<td>Peer Support continues</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>3 Sep</td>
<td>Year 4 Excursion</td>
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<td>Thurs</td>
<td>5 Sep</td>
<td>Year 2 Excursion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sat</td>
<td>7 Sep</td>
<td>SPRING FAIR</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>9 Sep</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>10 Sep</td>
<td>Peer Support continues</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>13 Sep</td>
<td>Parish Mass (Years 1, 3 &amp; 6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun</td>
<td>15 Sep</td>
<td>School Family Mass (K, 1 &amp; 2) 10am at Church</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>Our Lady of Mercy Liturgy 12:45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>20 Sep</td>
<td>Last day of Term 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tues</td>
<td>8 Oct</td>
<td>First day of Term 4</td>
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**CANTEEN ROSTER**  
**12th – 16th AUGUST**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>Anne Marie Saliba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>Alison Woolgar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>Vicki Barlow, Linda Knight</td>
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If anyone is available to help in the Canteen on any day, it would be greatly appreciated. If you haven’t worked in the Canteen before but would like to find out what is involved, please don’t hesitate to contact Mrs Haigh.

**PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE**

Just a reminder to those students participating in the Premier’s Reading Challenge, you only have until 23rd August to complete your online reading records. No books can be entered after this date. Any student who is having problems needs to see Mrs Heness, Mrs Buhagiar or Mrs Ward.

**PARISH NEWS**  
**WEBSITE**

The Toongabbie Parish church website has recently been upgraded. The Website now automatically resizes when viewing on iPad / iPhone and Android devices. Visit us at [www.stanthonyschurch.org](http://www.stanthonyschurch.org) and see this great addition to our parish website.

**ST MARY OF THE CROSS MacKILLOP FEAST DAY**

Today is the feast day of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Mass will be at the Church at 7:30pm tonight.

**CHURCH GROUND MAINTENANCE**

The working bee is on again on Saturday 10th August from 8am to 9:30am. It would be good to see you there with your gardening tools, brooms, gloves etc. If needed contact Vince Adams on 9863 2731 or mobile 0421 724 425.

**UNIFORM SHOP TIMES**

The Uniform Shop will be open on Monday 12th August, from 2:30pm – 3:15pm. You can place orders through the office at any time.

**SCHOOL BANKING TOKEN REDEMPTION DAY**  
**TUESDAY 13th August 2013**

Please bring along your 10 silver tokens or 1 gold token to redeem for your choice of the following rewards (which are on display in the school office)

- Dollarmite Money Box – Spen, Pru, Addy, Cred, or Pat
- Wallet
- Handball
- Knuckle Game
- Torch
- Calculator

Bring your tokens with your banking to the banking desk between 8:30 & 9am and we will order your rewards. Rewards will be returned to the school and will distributed to students during banking on Tuesday 20th August 2013. Should you not have enough tokens to redeem at this time there will be another redemption day later in the term.

**COMING HOME TODAY**

- Catholic Outlook
- Letter to parents re: Spring Fair Helpers
- Spring Fair Flyer
- Mufti Day Flyer
- Rides Flyer
- Gospel Action