Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s

Gospel Reading of Sunday,  
11th November, 2012

Mark 12:41-44

Jesus sat down opposite the treasury and observed how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow also came and put in two small coins worth a few cents. Calling his disciples to himself, he said to them, “Amen, I say to you, this poor widow put in more than all the other contributions to the treasury. For they have all contributed from their surplus wealth, but she, from her poverty, has contributed all she had, her whole livelihood.”

Reflection

Sometimes we find ourselves surrounded by people who do things only that will further their success. Often times, we ourselves do things just so others will think highly of us. But in today’s reading Jesus warns against vanity, and he praises the humility of the poor woman who from her poverty offers her whole livelihood to God in sincerity rather than vainglory like the scribes and Pharisees.

Let us pray together:-

Heavenly Father,
Free us from all vanities.
Open our hearts to seek your face
in holy worship and praise to you.
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever.
Amen.

Welcome to Week 5.
On reflection of this coming Sunday’s Gospel I would like to ask you to also reflect on a reading from the Letter of St Paul to the Church in Ephesus, the Church also of Timothy and John and Mary.

‘I Paul, a prisoner in the Lord, beseech you to live in a way that is worthy of the vocation to which you are called: with all humility and mildness, with patience, supporting one another in charity. Be careful to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace. For in the (Holy) Spirit you have been called into one body with one hope; in the Lord (Jesus Christ) you have been called into one faith and one baptism; in the one God and Father of all, who is over all, through all and in us all.’

My pilgrim experience provided the fertile ground from which to think more deeply about my response to God’s invitation: to live in a way that is worthy of the vocation to which I was called. God gave of his son to show us how…and people like Paul to demonstrate the possibilities for us if we were to think and see things differently and to how to build Church: a community of people striving to build a better world based upon truth and justice. Most Reverend Anthony Fisher OP wrote to me, his fellow pilgrim, renewed in my sense of mission, to discern that ‘We must no longer be children tossed to and fro and carried along by the latest doctrine, the malice of men or the craftiness of those who would deceive us; but speaking the truth in love, may we in all things grow up into Christ who is the head and from whom we the body draw (order and like).

So each of us has been given a particular grace, according to the measure of Christ. Some he graced to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and some teachers: but all for the ministry of the word, for perfecting the saints and building up the body of Christ, so that all may grow up in the unity of faith and the knowledge of the Son of God, maturing into the fullness of Christ.

‘People today put more trust in witnesses than in teachers, in experience than in teaching and in life and action than in theories. The witness of a Christian life is the first and irreplaceable form of mission: Christ, whose mission we continue, is the “witness” par excellence and the model of all Christian witness. The Holy Spirit accompanies the Church along her way and associates her with the witness he gives to Christ’ ( cited from Joannes Paulus PP. II ‘Redemptoris Missio, On the permanent validity of the Church’s missionary mandate’ n42)

The ‘Gospel Action of the Week’ is one of the many ways our school community responds to God’s invitation in an evangelising way with students, staff, parents and the wider community.

Today we congratulate the St Anthony’s students who participated in their First Reconciliation last night and to those who make their First Reconciliation tonight. Predominately it is the
Year 3 students, however, sometimes other grade students also participate in the Sacrament depending on their personal circumstances. My apologies for my absent, unfortunately, my daughter, Sarah, had an accident this week and has been in need of my care.

SCHOOL UNIFORM
A reminder, for all parents to ensure that your child is wearing the correct school uniform. I am aware that a number of ‘Uniform Notes’ have been sent home where students are wearing the following:

- Coloured joggers – these need to be predominantly WHITE.
- Different coloured ribbons and bands - School colour is bottle green and available through the Uniform shop.
- Bracelets, necklaces and earrings are not acceptable. Please refer to the School handbook on the School Website.
- No-show sports socks are still being worn – New sports socks are available through the Uniform shop.

I can’t stress enough the importance of the students wearing the correct uniform and please ensure that your child comes to school well-groomed and in a clean uniform. It is important that your child has high self-esteem about themselves. This may have an impact on their relationship with others. I have included a website worth reading – Personal Grooming: How it fosters self-esteem in our child. http://www.lovingyourchild.com/2010/09/personal-grooming-fosters-self-esteem-child/

WORLD YOUTH DAY
I encourage you to return the World Youth Day raffle tickets as soon as possible, hopefully you have been proactive in selling the tickets to support our young parishioners hoping to attend the big event. The Diocese of Parramatta is taking 3 groups of pilgrims to WYD Rio in 2013 via Lima in Peru, Iguazu and Mexico. Young people are invited to come along to an information night on Wednesday 14th November St Thomas Aquinas Parish, 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood, at 7.30 pm. For pilgrimage itineraries and all your WYD Rio news go to: www.parrawyd.org

WEBSITE TO STOP NSW FUNDING CUTS TO EDUCATION
The Catholic Diocese of Parramatta has launched a new campaign website to respond to the NSW Government’s decision to cut $1.7 billion in school education funding and cap the level of funding to non-government schools over the next four years. The website provides resources including sample letters to MPs, slogans for school signs and newsletter items to raise awareness of this issue. Concerned parents, staff and parishioners can also sign an online petition to lobby the NSW Government to overturn the decision. To let your voice be heard visit: www.parra.catholic.edu.au/schoolfunding

IMPORTANT ITEM - SCHOOL STARTING DATES 2013
This is a short explanation for the change of School starting dates for 2013. More correspondence will be forwarded in Week 6, next week.

Please mark the following dates in your diary as there will be no usual school attendance on some of the dates below:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>26th January 2013</td>
<td>Australia Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>28th January 2013</td>
<td>Public Holiday for Australia Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>29th January 2013</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>30th January 2013</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>31st January 2013</td>
<td>Years 1 – 6, First day of School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>1st February 2013</td>
<td>Kindergarten – First day of School</td>
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The reason for this arrangement is so that the teachers can complete the early assessment of MAI (Mathematical Assessment Interview). This assessment takes approximately 20 – 30 minutes per student. Therefore the two (2) staff development days will be utilised for teachers to assess their students individually. This will also mean that the Kindergarten teachers will have the 29th, 30th and 31st January to complete the MAI with all students, and if possible the Early Literacy testing as well.

Details of how the students will be appointed interview times will be informed next week. I realise that a number of parents have work commitments; this is why I am advising you well in advance so you can work around your child’s assessment time. Parents will be invited to wait while their child is being assessed, hospitality catering will be available while you are waiting. The whole purpose of the assessment being completed on these days is so that the learning and teaching is planned in light of the data collected and there will be no disruptions to the learning in the following weeks.

I thank you in anticipation for your support and patience.

Yours truly in Word and Deed.

Cheryl Brown
Principal

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
This month, the Catholic Church traditionally remembers and prays for those who have died. November begins with two significant feast days, All Saints (1 November) and All Souls (or the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed, 2 November). This month provides us an opportunity to remember Christ’s promise of eternal life, and to live in sure and certain hope that we will share in his resurrection from the dead.

First Reconciliation
This week, students from our school are participating in the parish celebrations of First Reconciliation. They have been preparing with their families over recent weeks. We pray that all the participants will find themselves blessed
with the unconditional love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ. Congratulations to the students and their families.

Exploring Scripture
This week our staff have been continuing in their professional learning about the Exploring Scripture storytelling method. This practice has been developed from sound educational research and has been found to be an effective way of introducing Bible stories, as well as other aspects of Church life and teaching to children. New handcrafted resources have also been ordered to support the use of this method in classrooms. This work we have engaged in as a staff is in direct response, not only to student learning needs, but to the first part of our school formation goal this year, namely “to promote St Anthony’s as a place where we reflect upon the word of God”.

Our professional learning meeting allowed us to see first hand how the Exploring Scripture method can be implemented in the classroom. It raised some very productive and fruitful discussion about how we as a staff can improve on the learning, teaching and assessment of Religious Education in our school. We will now work together to implement strategies to help realise this improvement.

Religious Literacy Assessment
Parents of Year 4 students should have recently received their child’s Religious Literacy Assessment Report from the Catholic Education Office. The students worked hard to achieve their results, and I congratulate them on their efforts.

Upcoming Dates

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 8 &amp;</td>
<td>First Reconciliation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 9 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 16 November</td>
<td>Parish Mass, 9:30 am – Kindergarten and Year 5 participating</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 23 November</td>
<td>Parish Mass, 9:30 am – Years 2 and 4 participating</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 24 November</td>
<td>Parish Youth Mass, 6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 30 November</td>
<td>Parish Mass, 9:30 am – Years 1, 3 and 6 participating</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 3 December</td>
<td>Prayer at Assembly, First Week of Advent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 4 December</td>
<td>Graduation Mass, 6:00 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 10 December</td>
<td>Prayer at Assembly, Second Week of Advent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 14 December</td>
<td>Christmas Pageant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 17 December</td>
<td>Prayer at Assembly, Third Week of Advent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 19 December</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Mass, 11am</td>
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CURRICULUM NEWS

What’s Happening at St Anthony’s Swimming Program
The 2 week swimming program at Aqua Bliss finished today. The students seemed to enjoy the activities provided and they developed water skills that hopefully will increase their confidence in and around water thereby ensuring their safety. Tomorrow all our students will participate in St Anthony’s Swimming Carnival. As this is a whole school event all children are expected to attend.

Year 5 Leadership Program
Next week Year 5 will begin the process of selection of student leaders for 2013. Student leadership provides an opportunity for students to actively participate in the organisation of school programs / events and in the decision-making processes at our school. Students are encouraged to take on leadership roles in an endeavor to increase their own leadership skills, act as effective and positive role models for the student community and offer responsible service to their school and peers. Nominations for School Leaders will take place from Wednesday to Friday next week. In weeks 7 and 8 the rest of the process will be implemented. An overview of the process is as follows:

- Students nominate self or others. Complete nomination sheet giving reasons for nomination
- Students meet with Mrs Brown and Mrs Charlton to discuss acceptance of the nomination
- Students prepare a short speech outlining what qualities they possess that would make them a good leader
- Students present speeches to Year 3, 4 and 5 prior to voting
- Appointment of leaders.

The student leadership team will consist of: School Captains (Boy and Girl), Vice Captains (Boy and Girl) and four student councillors (Boys and Girls).

School Captains will be elected and announced before the process of nominating and electing Sports Captains. The nomination and election process for House Captains will take place in Week 9.

Learning in Year One
If you have heard that Year One have been a bit noisy of late and you have been wondering why - it is because Year One are experimenting with the many ways ‘sounds’ can be made. In their Science Unit ‘Sound Sensation’ the children are exploring sounds in every day living. They are having a lot of ‘noisy’ fun.

The children in Year One have also been exploring ‘exposition’ writing with their teachers. They have been playing lots of language games where they are learning to form an opinion. They are also attempting to give reasons for their opinions. This week the children were asked to express their opinion on ‘favourite fruit’. One of the students (Veanthan) would like to share his attempt at writing his opinion with you.

In my opinion I like apples the best because it’s juicy. It makes my favourite juice. It is easy to pack and it’s good for summer. Actually all fruits are good for summer but I vote apples are the best of all. When an apple is cleaned thoroughly it looks divine. I like Snow White because she loves apples.

St Anthony’s School
Newsletter
Congratulations Veanthan on your wonderful effort in writing. I particularly like your choice of the word ‘divine’ to describe an apple. As you can see there is a lot of exciting learning happening in Year One.

Kind Regards

Patricia Charlton
Assistant Principal

St Anthony’s School
Newsletter

Discover OLMC Parramatta in November

Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta would like to invite you to visit the College and see Mercy values in action at our final Open Morning Tour for this year on Monday November 12, 2012. The College is now enrolling for 2014 and there are limited vacancies for 2013. Visit www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1263 to reserve your place or obtain further information.

GOLD COIN DAY – HELPING NSW POLICE CELEBRATE 150 YEARS

The New South Wales Police Force in 2012 is celebrating 150 years. To commemorate this achievement, Merrylands Police Station is raising money for Westmead Children’s Hospital by asking primary schools within the Holroyd Local Area Command to hold a coin donation day in December. Merrylands police will run to each of the participating primary schools under a police escort to collect the fundraising tins. Further details to follow.

WORLD YOUTH RIO INFORMATION NIGHTS

The Diocese of Parramatta is taking 3 groups of pilgrims to WYD Rio in 2013 via Lima in Peru, Iguazu and Mexico. Young people are invited to come along to these information nights. They all start at 7:30pm

- Thurs 8th Nov: St Patrick’s Parish, Blacktown
- Wed 14th Nov: St Thomas Aquinas Parish, Springwood.

For pilgrimage itineraries and all your WYD Rio news go to www.parrawyd.org

CALAENDER UPDATE

Fri  9 Nov  School Swimming Carnival
Wed 14 Nov  Kindergarten ‘13 Orientation Evening
Tues 4 Dec  Year 6 Graduation Mass & Dinner
Tues 11 Dec  Year 6 Outing
Fri 14 Dec  Reports go home
Fri 14 Dec  Christmas Concert
Mon 17 Dec  Helpers morning tea thank you and Liturgy
Wed 19 Dec  End of Year Mass
Wed 19 Dec  Last day of Term 4

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

KG  Lucas Nobbs  KW  Siiri Lipping
1G  Gabriel Ferrer  1W  Achai Angloang
2G  Kye Russell  2W  Deevann Kerisiano
3G  Connor Salmon  3W
4G  Carl Edillo  4W  Alysha Nobbs
5G  Amber Palmer  5W  Amaya Dedigama
6G  Joe Mbarak  6W  Jake McFadden

REMINDEERS

Thank you to everyone who have returned their Student Data Validation Forms to the school. We still have a number outstanding and it would be appreciated if they could be returned to the office even if there are no changes to them.

Please keep selling the World Youth Day 2013 raffle tickets. The sold/unsold tickets need to be returned to the school no later than Friday 30th November.

CANTEEN NEWS

CANTEEN ROSTER – NOVEMBER 12 - 16

Monday  Biddy O’Malley, Judi Adams
Tuesday
Wednesday  Mim Zammit
Thursday
Friday  Louise Frendo, Vicki Barlow

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

Swimming caps in the house colours, Blue, Red, Green & Yellow, can still be purchased tomorrow from the school office. They cost $4.00 each.