Dear Parents and Friends of St Anthony’s

Gospel Reading for Sunday, 13th November  
Matthew 25:14-15, 19-21

Jesus told his disciples this parable: “A man going on a journey called in his servants and entrusted his possessions to them. To one he gave five talents; to another, two; to a third, one – to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

“After a long time the master of those servants came back and settled accounts with them. The one who had received five talents came forward bringing the additional five. He said, ‘Master, you gave me five talents. See, I have made five more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, my good and faithful servant. Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you greater responsibilities. Come, share your master’s joy.’”

REFLECTION

Are we tempted to say “It’s not fair!” or “Others have it easy”? We may feel the weight of our responsibilities at times, but God’s use of us is a reward for the way we have served in the past. If we can see the opportunities we have to welcome others, help where needed, use our gifts, and be leaders for Christ as God’s blessings, we can then “share [the] master’s joy.”

Let us pray together…

Wise God, grower of the vineyard, you see the big picture:
each person’s choices and life journey.
May we silence our inner doubts and jealousies and rejoice in doing your will.
May we aspire to be your good and faithful servants.
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

FOR YOUR REFLECTION: JOYFUL LIVING: WHAT OUR CENTENARIANS TELL US

Recently, Professor Robyn Richmond conducted a study of 190 centenarians, the oldest was 112, and from her interviews with them found that personality traits and attitudes have a greater influence on their longevity than genetics. Low neuroticism – fear, worry, guilt – low anger and hostility, low impulsivity, low depression, high social connectedness, high openness, high conscientiousness; these seemed to be the key to a ripe old age. Levels of anxiety and depression amongst the group were well below average.

“Get on with it; you can’t dwell on disappointments.” “Wherever I am, I’m contented.” “They tell me I’m the oldest Australian. How did I get here? Just quietly living one day at a time.” These were a sample of the comments from our most senior citizens and what wisdom they contain. Collectively, these centenarians seem to have discovered the secret of joyful living by being fully engaged with their lives and being fully alive in one present moment followed by the next.

The French naturalist, Jean Henri Fabre, was fascinated by processional caterpillars that marched in a long unbroken line front to back. So, he captured enough of them to encircle the rim of a flower pot. He linked them nose to end and started them walking in a closed circle around the rim of the pot. For days they moved like a perpetual merry-go-round and, although food was near at hand, the caterpillars starved to death on their endless march to nowhere.

Unfortunately, life is like this for some people. They worry over unfounded fears which really never happen. They wander through life without any meaningful and worthwhile purpose. Similar to the caterpillars, they spend their life going in circles which, as they age, become decreasing circles; a tragic way to live. Joyful living is the result of being totally accepting of our present moment. Whenever we project ourselves away from our present moment and seek happiness in another time or place, we leave joy behind. Living joyfully is a work in progress throughout our lives. So, “Get on with it; you can’t dwell on disappointments.”

Here are some steps to begin practicing a more joyful living:

- Do your higher purpose activities first
- Schedule in a fun activity that you enjoy 3 – 4 times a week
- Do something new once a week
- Practice finding joy in even the most mundane tasks
- Every hour (or as often as you think of it) stop and find something joyful, wherever you are
- Every morning or evening write down all the wonderful joy you experienced and give thanks.
I am trying to think positive today about the ‘Saturday Working Bee’. At this point in time I only have 8 people who have returned the slip to say that they will be giving some of their time to help out on Saturday. I ask you to reconsider your plans for the weekend and volunteer your time to help tidy up our school grounds. There are a number of jobs to do, for example:

- sand and paint benches (approximately 70 of them)
- clean classroom walls
- wash plastic seats in preparation for the School Blessing
- oil outdoor wooden benches

I know these items are time consuming, but the aim is to get a start on them and complete them by 25th November, 2011, the School Blessing Liturgy and Morning Tea.

Last night many parents attended the 2012 Kindergarten Parent Information Evening. I wish to thank Mrs Louise Korny for overseeing the organisation and preparation of the evening. There were many speakers from the community very eager to share the wonderful things that happen at St Anthony’s. I was very excited when Mrs Louise Frendo and Mr Michael Phillips spoke to the new parents about the experiences on their child being in Kindergarten and what it has been like being a parent member of the St Anthony’s School community. I wish to thank the following people for their support throughout the evening:-

Fr Paul Marshall, Mrs Mary Cook, Mrs Patricia Charlton, Mr Robert Barden, Mrs Venessa Ward, Mrs Julie Brownlow, Mrs Deborah Lucas, Mrs Louise Frendo, Mr Michael Phillips and especially the 2012 Kindergarten teachers, Mrs Sonia Awkar and Mrs Charlene Sheraton. These evening do not happen without the special people behind the scene, I would also like to thank Mrs Rowena Laurie, Mrs Elizabeth Heness and Mrs Sue Haigh in preparing the paperwork.

Enjoy the week and may you live in Word and Deed.

Kind Regards

Cheryl Brown
Principal

Blessing of School Buildings
Preparations are well underway for the Blessing of our School Buildings on Friday 25 November. Invitations were sent home to families a short time ago. Thank you to those parents who wish to attend and have already sent a reply. To help us with our preparations, please let us know immediately if you are going to attend.

The Sunday Gospels at the End of Ordinary Time
At present, the Church is in the final weeks of the season of Ordinary Time. Over the next couple of weeks, the current liturgical year will come to an end, before entering once again into the season of Advent and a new liturgical year.

Many of the gospel readings we hear at this point seem to blend into the early readings of the Advent season. The end of the Ordinary Time and the beginning of Advent often proclaim the same message: “Stay awake, for you do not know the day or the hour.” This time of year reminds us of Christ’s promise to return at the end of time. Jesus spoke of such times and the need to prepare for them. So for the early Christians, it was a commonly held belief that the end of time was to come soon. As time progressed, the early Christians became concerned that the end of the world did not seem to be approaching. Even St Paul, in his later writings, begins to suggest that Christ’s return was not as imminent as they first thought. We, of course, can look at this with the benefit of many centuries of hindsight.

This does not mean, however, that Christ will not return. Even today some people (even repeatedly) make predictions of when such an event will occur. Should the focus for us be on when this will happen, or on what we should be doing in the meantime? If we are to truly prepare for that time when we will be completely at one with God, then our lives on earth should be characterised by all that is of God, grounded firmly in our love of God and neighbour.

Upcoming Dates

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Fri</td>
<td>11 Nov</td>
<td>Prayer Service at Assembly for Remembrance</td>
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<td>Sun</td>
<td>13 Nov</td>
<td>School Family Mass, 10am – Years 3 &amp; 4</td>
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Kind Regards

Robert Barden
Religious Education Coordinator

(What’s Happening?)
Currently all grades at St Anthony’s are involved in assessment of learning. As outlined in past news items on ‘Assessment and Reporting’ assessment takes many forms. At this time of the year, in addition to teacher designed assessment tasks, standardised tests are administered. Although assessment of students’ learning is an ongoing process throughout the learning cycle these standardised tests are part of St Anthony’s Agreed Assessment Procedures. All grades undertake a reading, spelling and word recognition standardised test. The results of these tests (along with other forms of teacher

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assessment) is an indication of student progress and growth over the year. The data obtained from these tests helps teachers and students to set learning goals for the following year. In addition to the school standardised tests Kindergarten and Year One will again take part in the Early Years Assessment. In Kindergarten this involves: running record observations (reading), letter ID tests and concepts about print. Year One will undertake the following: running record observations, Burt Word Test, Writing Vocabulary, Hearing and Recording Sounds in Words and some students in Year One will also be tested on Letter ID, Concept about print and the Clay word test. As the Kindergarten and Year One assessment tasks are individually administered days have been set aside in weeks 6 and 7 for the tests to be administered. Casual teachers have been employed to support the teaching and learning while the class teachers administer the tests.

Movie Teams
Throughout the year the school Movie Team have been learning to create a film. This week the team were able to put theory into practice by beginning the filming of their own movie. On Monday they began capturing footage at AMF Bowling, Blacktown and on Wednesday they were filming at Keene Park. The children have been enjoying the ‘moviemaking’ process and are now keen to move into the editing stage. Stay tuned for more information, including the name and theme of the movie. Thank you to Miss Younes and Mr Mackey for assisting our students in this exciting project.

Kind Regards
Patricia Charlton
Assistant Principal

This year our literacy focus has been comprehension. Early in Term 2 we purchased a resource called “Making Connections”, which the teachers and students from Years 1 - 6 have been using. Sharon Taberski, the author of “Comprehension from the Ground Up” has this to say, “Comprehension is the overarching goal that gives direction to reading and writing. It is important for children to understand texts they read and make sense of texts they write”. It is through this that children can truly understand the meaning of a text rather than merely reading the words alone. When children read and write with deep understanding, their reading and writing is far more meaningful and worthwhile.

Happy Reading
Louise Korny
Literacy Coordinator

I have had the opportunity over the last few weeks to visit classrooms during their Numeracy block. The activities that are happening in the classroom have been challenging and enjoyed by the students. The teachers have developed a number of warm up activities where students manipulate different materials to solve number problems. During this time, it came to my attention that we are in need of a lot more materials for the classroom. As a result, I have organised a working bee to make bead strings and other manipulatives.

A note will be sent home next week asking for volunteers during the morning and afternoon of Friday 2nd December. I hope that together we will be able to provide the students with more materials to support their learning.

Joanne Digwood
Numeracy Coordinator

FREE RESUSCITATION SEMINAR
Holroyd City Council are holding a FREE Resuscitation Seminar on Monday: 14th November, 2011 5:30pm – 6:30pm Holroyd City Council, Administration Building 16 Memorial Avenue, Merrylands Receive a free resuscitation chart and a home pool safety checklist. Places are limited – Registrations Essential To register please phone Holroyd City Council on 9840 9674

Australian Native Landscapes Pty Limited
‘Everything for your garden’ 6 Tollis Place, Seven Hills Tel: 9674 4899 They have supported the School by donating garden supplies for Mrs Grieve to use around the School.

St Anthony’s School
Newsletter

Wet Nose Day Information
Back for a second year, Wet Nose Day is a free event for all the family. Held at Parramatta Park on Sunday 20th November the event promises you the complete Guide Dog experience.
• Come and meet one of our adorable Guide Dog puppies before they head off to training school.
• Learn how a Guide Dog is trained with a demonstration from one of our experts.
• Meet a Guide Dog user and been inspired by their amazing stories.

There will be heaps of kids’ activities throughout the day, including: face painting, a Guide Dog colouring competition, a jumping castle and much, much more!

Venue: The Bowling Green, Parramatta Park
Date: Sunday, November 20, 2011
Time: 10:00 to 16:00

So come and join in the fun at this year’s Wet Nose Day. Bring your family and friends to this free event and you’ll be supporting the good work we do.

For more information visit our Guide Dogs NSW/ACT Facebook page www.facebook.com/guidedogsnswact.

CALENDAR UPDATE

| Fri  | 11 Nov   | Remembrance Day - Prayer Service at Assembly |
| Sat  | 12 Nov   | School Working Bee – 9am – 3pm               |
| Sun  | 13 Nov   | School Family Mass, 10am – Years 3 & 4       |
| Mon  | 14 Nov   | Kindergarten 2012 Orientation – Group 1      |
| Tues | 15 Nov   | Kindergarten 2012 Orientation – Group 1      |
| Mon  | 21 Nov   | School Community Group Meeting & AGM        |
| Mon  | 21 Nov   | Kindergarten 2012 Orientation – Group 2      |
| Tues | 22 Nov   | Kindergarten 2012 Orientation – Group 2      |
| Fri  | 25 Nov   | Blessing & Opening of School Buildings, 10am |
| Sat  | 26 Nov   | Parish Youth Mass, 6pm                      |
| Mon  | 5 Dec    | Reports go home                            |
| Fri  | 9 Dec    | School Christmas Pageant                   |
| Tues | 13 Dec   | Year 6 Graduation Mass & Dinner, 6pm        |
| Wed  | 14 Dec   | Year 6 Outing                              |
| Fri  | 16 Dec   | Thanksgiving Mass, 11am                    |
| Fri  | 16 Dec   | Last day of School Year                     |
| Sun  | 18 Dec   | Carols in the Parish Car Park               |
| Thurs| 9 Feb ‘12| School Swimming Carnival                    |

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

KG Hayden Brown  KW Jordina Rajadurai
1G Kenyon Aquino  1W Alexandra Zammit
2G Dau Deng      2W Daniella Touma
3G Lauren Cooper 3W Angelyn Veniegra
4G Pritiv Deepak Raj 4W Natasha Lette
5G Anushree Ravi  5W Chantelle Haber
6G 6W Daniel Allotta

BUS PASSES

Hills Bus has informed us that children currently in Year 2 going into Year 3, who hold a bus pass, will need to re-apply for a bus pass for next year. Applications need to be lodged as soon as possible to enable Hills Bus to plan their services for next year. Applications are available from the office.

PASTORAL CARE GROUP

• The “Cuppa and Chat” is happening on Monday mornings at The Hub. Look forward to seeing you all.
• Don’t forget to take a look at the Community Noticeboard and remember everyone is welcome to add something to it. Just see Rowena in the office.

CAUGHT DOING IT RIGHT

Jordan Salama of 2W was caught by Mrs Brown being a very kind and helpful person to someone in need on the playground. Well done Jordan.

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking starts Tuesday 15th November at 8:30am in the HUB
So bring in your Bank Books on Tuesday.