



St Finbar's Primary School

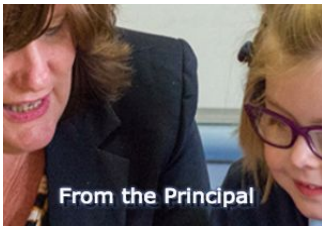
Levy Street, Glenbrook 2773
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www.stfinbarsglenbrook.catholic.edu.au

BE SAFE
BE RESPECTFUL
BE A LEARNER



Newsletter Edition 8
Term 2 Week 6
7 June 2018



From the Principal

Dear St Finbar's Community



Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Platt

We congratulate Mr and Mrs Platt on the safe arrival of

Luke John Platt

Born 1st June 2018

Weighing 3.1Kg | 52cm Long

All are doing well!





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BISHOP VINCENT VISIT TO ST FINBAR'S GLENBROOK PARISH

Most Reverend Vincent Long Van Nguyen OFM Conv DD STL, Bishop of Parramatta

Homily for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity at St Finbar's Parish, Glenbrook

27 May 2018



Dear brothers and sisters,

It has been a particularly trying week for the Catholic Church in Australia. Once again, it has found itself under the spotlight – for all the wrong reasons. The highest-ranking Catholic official in the world found guilty of child sex abuse cover up, ran the headlines. The reaction has been swift and damning: that the church is steeped in a culture of self-interest and self-preservation; that children and the vulnerable are not safe in it; that the custodians of this culture are not to be trusted. As I walked the aisles at the local supermarket with my Roman collar and cross, I wondered what people thought of me. I wondered if I was tarred with the same brush. It was hard to put on a brave face. Many of you might have felt deflated and even disillusioned as you processed the negative publicity. You

The church has been humbled and humiliated. It has been thrown off its high horse because it has been exposed as having failed its mission and betrayed its own ethos. But it is not necessarily a bad thing that we now have to start from a position of weakness and vulnerability in order to regain our trust and indeed our Gospel compass. We are reminded of the story of the Apostle Paul on his way to Damascus. Things did not turn out the way he had expected. He experienced a profound turn of events. He had an unwelcome reality check and a temporary blindness. But this complete vulnerability was the catalyst for a whole new way of seeing, acting and being. Paul was never the same afterwards. His strength no longer came from his status, entitlement, privilege and power. It came from the utter powerlessness of the Servant Christ.



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The Catholic Church has had its Damascus moment in the sexual abuse crisis. It has fallen from the privileged position in society and the power and influence that came with that status. Now, like Paul, it is undergoing a time of uncertainty and darkness. We should not fear this time. For it is the Kairos to repent of our institutional failures and to restore confidence in the church. It is the favourable moment to undertake deep reform that will align its culture and structure to the vision of the Nazarene. It is the opportunity to replace clerical impunity, elitism and self-interest with accountability, humility and equal discipleship.

Today, we celebrate the core of our Christian faith: the God of love who reveals himself not as one who is siloed, removed and aloof from humanity. Rather, God reveals himself as relational and closely bonded with humanity. This is the message of Moses in the first reading: God is closely bonded with his people throughout the ebbs and flows of history. He delivered them from oppression and slavery in Egypt. Therefore, they are to form a post-Exodus society, which would reflect the God of communion and love. This new society would be marked by concern for the God-given dignity of all and special attention to the most vulnerable, in biblical terms, the widows, the orphans and the strangers. For Moses and the Israelites, worship of God is expressed in love of neighbour and human flourishing

The Gospel tells us the story of Jesus sending his disciples to preach the Good News after his ascension. "Go, therefore, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you". This missionary mandate has to be understood in the broader context of Jesus' own ministry. For clearly, the God that we meet in Jesus is not a tribal God who excludes other people on the basis of their background, gender, race or even religion. Rather, the God revealed in Jesus transcends all human barriers. It is the God who is radically inclusive; who identifies himself with the least, the last and the lost; who is frequently at the margins rather than centres of power.

Thus, we cannot make disciples of all the nations when we fail to live out the radical inclusivity and solidarity that Jesus embodied. When privilege, power and dominance are more evident than love, humility and servanthood in the church, then our preaching rings hollow. When the full citizenship of the baptised is undermined by the elitism of the ordained, then we betray the lesson of foot-washing leadership.

Dear friends,

It is a sobering reality that we are confronted with. The church that we love is at a critical juncture. What is being asked of us is nothing less than a wholehearted commitment to follow the long hard road to conversion. May we have the courage to die to old ways of being church that no longer convey the message of the Gospel to the culture in which we live. May the leaders in particular, like Paul, embrace the downward mobility, inclusivity and solidarity of the Servant Lord. Let us go forward in our mission to make a difference in the world, confident of the victory of Christ and his promise to be with us till the end of time. May our lives and relationships reflect the God of communion and love.



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Welcome Back Mrs Cherie Baddock

We welcome back Mrs Cherie Baddock once again to our staff. Mrs Baddock worked at St Finbar's in 2016 and will now join the Stage 3 Team, while Mrs Platt is on maternity leave. Mrs Baddock will be teaching on a Friday when Mrs Brown is released to fulfil the role of Religious Education Coordinator. We are so pleased to have you rejoin us.



6/6/2018

Many paths to reading - Parramatta Advertiser, 06/06/2018



Many paths to reading

top of the class
with greg whitby



@gregwhitby

WE know that high levels of literacy mean more opportunities for young people.

We also know that teachers play a critical important role in teaching children how to read. The work of most teachers is evident in the early years when students begin developing their vocabulary and awareness of letter sounds.

The saying that 'There's more than one way to skin a cat' can also apply to teaching children to read. Decades of research show the benefits of using several strategies.

There have been a number of stories in the media in the past months about the Reading Recovery early intervention reading program. I am a strong supporter of it

and we continue to use the program to great success in schools in the Diocese of Parramatta. I also acknowledge that other strategies, including phonics, have an important role to play.

The work of schools in teaching children to read is vitally important but we are misguided if we think that this responsibility sits only

with schools. We know that the earlier we expose children to spoken language, reading, singing, rhymes and books, the earlier we lay foundations of literacy.

Most parents, whether they are aware of it or not, use different strategies when they are reading or singing to a child.

They sound out the letters in a word, they may make connections between the word and the pictures, they ask questions about the book cover in an attempt to provide clues about the story.

If as a society we are serious about addressing declin-

ing literacy levels among young people, then we need to look beyond what we teach in Kindy or Year 1. We need to be looking at ways we can support children from the time they are born.

This may mean providing additional support and education to parents with lower literacy levels, encouraging more parents to visit libraries and, where it's possible, using technology to connect skilled readers with young children. We need to be looking at approaches that are not aimed at fixing the problem but preventing it from happening in the first place.



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2018 Semester One Reports

At the end of Week 8 you will have received your child's Half-Yearly School Report. The report format meets the Federal Government and Parramatta Diocesan requirements. All children in Years 1-6 are graded using a five grade scale - A,B,C,D,E, the scale summarising the standard (or quality) of achievement. This scale was developed to give parents insight into how well their child has achieved at the subjects studied by describing the depth of knowledge and understanding as well as the range of skills. Teachers decide which grade best matches the standard your child has achieved based on many pieces of work, assessments, and observations.

Children in Kindergarten are not graded using an A-E scale, but rather by their own level of development over the first year at school. The grades that we use are:

Kindergarten	Needs Support	Working Towards	Working At	Working Beyond	
	Experiencing Difficulty	Did OK !	Celebrate this Work	Beyond Expectations / Amazing Achievement	
Years 1 to 6	E	D	C	B	A
Reflects NESA Grading Scale	Elementary	Basic Achievement	Sound Achievement	High Achievement	Excellent Achievement
St Finbar's Descriptors	Experiencing Difficulty	Did OK !	Celebrate this Work	Beyond Expectations	Amazing Achievement
Effort		Improvement Needed	Greater Application Required	Consistent	Enthusiastic and Conscientious
Look at this like a Drivers Licence	A person on their L Plates must always be accompanied by an experienced driver 	A person on their P Plates drives independently but is still learning and developing skills 	A person who has a full licence is independent to drive on their own without restrictions 	An Advanced Driver can navigate many obstacles and has extra skills 	A Formula One Driver strives for excellence - conquering one challenge and then moving on to the next and even bigger challenge. 



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Another concept that is important to consider when you look at your child's report is "Staging". Staging refers to structure that the New South Wales Curriculum is set by, this is established by the NSW Education

Standards Authority (NESA). The Curriculum is set in response to research that states that it typically takes a child 18 months to 2 years to master a learning outcome. Outcomes are introduced at the beginning of each "Stage" and consolidated for most children by the end of each "Stage".

Hence, children in Years 1, 3 and 5 (commencing Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3) typically would perform at a lower grade than children in Years 2, 4 and 6 (at the end of Stage 1, Stage 2 and Stage 3). This is because those at the end of the Stage of Learning have had 2 years to consolidate their understanding of the various learning outcomes. Our program of learning is therefore implemented over two years, which ensures no repetition of content while allowing ongoing practice of skills.

So what might this mean for your child?

This may mean for a child in Year 2 or 4 in 2016 that their 2017 grade seems to indicate that they are not performing at the same level as they did the previous year.

For example a child's standard of work in English at the end of Stage 2 (Year 4) in 2016 may have been assessed as a "B", yet at the end of Semester 1, (beginning of Stage 3 –Year 5), their standard of work in English may be assessed as a "D."

Be assured your child's work is not necessarily of a lesser standard. It is more likely to be that they are yet to master a particular outcome of learning that is new to them. As always, the level of your child's effort must also be considered when discussing the grade given to their standard of work.

At *St Finbar's* we have developed high expectations for our students' learning. While looking at your child's report, remember to refer to the statements of achievement that describe your child's level of success in each Key Learning Area. Also remember to pay attention to your child's work habits. You might like to keep the following four tips in mind when reading your child's report:

1. Look for strengths first. Focus on the strengths and celebrate these areas.
2. Take into account your child's effort and attitude to learning. If the report indicates that effort needs attention, then they have something to work on. If your child is putting in the required effort, speak to your child about how pleasing this is and how it has a positive impact on their learning.
3. Broaden your focus to form a picture of your child's progress as a member of a social setting. How your child gets along with his or her peers will influence their happiness and well-being.
4. Discuss the report with your son or daughter talking about strengths first before looking at areas that need improvement. Ask for their opinion about how they performed and discuss their concerns.

Should you have any questions or concerns about your child's report, please discuss this with your child's class teachers.

Your child's half yearly report will not have any comments. The reason for this is that we believe that a face to face meeting allows for clear lines of communication and provides an opportunity for a broader perspective of your child's achievements. We will be posting an online booking schedule in the coming weeks for you to book in for this important conference. We encourage you to bring your child along to this meeting because we value the role that student voice plays in learning

Yours In Christ

Donna McFadzean
Principal



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On Monday, we held our Week 6 Assembly. I wanted to use this opportunity to talk to the students about the importance of celebrating the differences we have in our community. That each person is an individual, and no matter how different their interests, abilities or academic achievement is to our own, we need to celebrate the individual for who they are.

JFK famously said, "ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country." Each and everyone of us brings something special to our school. Importantly we need to celebrate the differences that we have. From time to time, we, parents and teachers, are required to help our children to solve a problem where a difference has caused some upset. My wondering is, can we flip it? Can we ask the question, ask not what this person can do for you, ask what you can do for them?

If our differences are causing us upset, maybe we need to think about how we better understand the other individual?

I recently watched the film, The Greatest Showman. It looks at the story of man who helps individuals, who had normally been pushed into the shadows, to feel valued. That despite their differences they bring great joy and entertainment to the lives of others. Even though others may want to bring them down, they stand up to the name callers and simply say, "This is me!"

I loved the power and simplicity of this message; this is me. When I look at the many wonderful individuals that grace our community each and everyday, I know that the individual differences they bring make our school a unique, special and sacred place.

To highlight the remarkable children we have in our school, I pieced together this [video](#), for this week's assembly, to emphasise the way each child shapes our school into a place of inclusivity, difference, respect, tolerance and wonder.



Let your light shine

Ben Ticehurst
Assistant Principal

Thank You Parents

We would like to thank all the parents who have been able to support some of our recent school events.

- Mr O'Leary and Mr Evans for coaching our Stage 3 Soccer Teams;
- Mrs Cremona, Mrs Budge, Mrs O'Leary, Mrs Buggy, Mrs Lewis and Mrs McCaffery for their help during Yellow Ribbon Day;
- Mrs Budge, Mrs Diamond, Mrs Buggy, Mrs Murphy, Mrs McCaffery, Mrs Dawes, Mrs Good, Mrs Cremona, Mrs De La Mare, Mrs Walker and Mrs O'Callaghan for their help during today's Write a Picture Book in a Day.
- Mrs Casha for her work with Book Club.

Without your generous support, these events can not run smoothly.



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School Fees

Term 2 fees were due on **WEDNESDAY 6 JUNE**.

PLEASE NOTE : If a student leaves the school during a term, no refund will be made in respect of the remaining portion of that term unless a full term's notice (ie: 10 weeks) in writing is given to the Principal before removal of the student from school.

If you are experiencing financial hardship or have a query regarding your school fee account, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Denham (Tuesday through to Friday) in the office. All matters are treated with the strictest confidentiality at all times.

Please contact Mrs Denham if you wish to make an alternative payment arrangement.

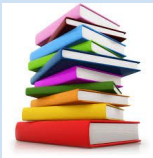






60 Seconds with Mya

This week Mya Interviews Ambrielle Good

[Click here to view](#)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Thursday 7 June Write a Book in a Day 	Tuesday 12 June Parish Mass - Kindy 9:00am Reconciliation Stage 3 Group B	Tuesday 19 June Parish Mass Stage 3 Group A 9am 
Friday 8 June Grandparents Day 9:15am - 10:30am Special Food Day - Year 4 coordinating	Thursday 14 June Stage 3 Camp to Vision Valley Depart School 8:30am 	Friday 22 June Semester 1 Reports distributed 
Monday 11 June Public Holiday 	Friday 15 June Stage 3 Return from Camp Approximately 3:30pm	



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Sacrament of Reconciliation

We keep in our prayers the children who will begin preparing with their families over the next couple of weeks to make the Sacrament of Reconciliation. They will be celebrating this sacrament for the first time on Saturday 2nd of June at 2.30pm.

Michael Martland
Joshua Shouha
Ruby Shouha
Wentworth Oliver Don-Wakefield
Mhyumie Murray
Alyssa Moore
Samuel Caetan
Jude Alderton
Abigail Stanford
Elizabeth Gott
Mitchell Cremona
Alyssa McFadden



***God's unconditional love through reconciliation is a true gift He gives to us all.
God will forgive us always because he loves each and every one of us.***

Grandparent's Day Celebration and Feast Day of the Sacred Heart

You are Invited

On Friday 8th June our school community will be celebrating the feast day of the Sacred Heart and giving thanks to all of our grandparents.

8.30am Morning Tea on the Infants Playground and classroom tour
9.15am Mass in the church followed by a reflection about Grandparents at the end of Mass

After Mass we invite all grandparents into the classroom to complete an activity with their grandchildren that explores how learning takes place in the classroom today.

All grandparents are invited to join us for this special occasion.





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Parish Mass every Tuesday



Throughout the term each class joins the St Finbar's Parish community for Mass on a Tuesday at 9am. Year 4 will be going to Mass on Tuesday 15th May and Year 3 on Tuesday 22nd May. We invite all parents and parishioners to join us. Parents are invited to sit with their children during Parish Mass.

Dates for your diary - Grandparents Day Morning Tea and Mass - **Friday 8th June**

Yours in Faith

Natalie Platt
REC



2018 Year of Youth Art Competition

Overview

All Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta students from Kindergarten to Year 12 are invited to create an artwork to celebrate the Year of Youth and its theme; for young people and the Church to '**open new horizons for spreading joy.**' This theme is based on Pope Francis' call at World Youth Day 2016:

'My friends, Jesus is the Lord of risk, he is the Lord of the eternal "more". Jesus is not the Lord of comfort, security and ease. Following Jesus demands a good dose of courage, a readiness to trade in the sofa for a pair of walking shoes and to set out on new and uncharted paths. To blaze trails that open up new horizons capable of spreading joy, born of God's love and wells up in your hearts with every act of mercy. To take the path of the "craziness" of our God, who teaches us to encounter him in the hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the friend in trouble, the prisoner, the refugee and the migrant, and our neighbours who feel abandoned. To take the path of our God, who encourages us to be politicians, thinkers, social activists.'

Pope Francis, World Youth Day Vigil with Young People, 30 July 2016



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Artwork Theme: "Spreading Joy"

Students may use Pope Francis' address at World Youth Day 2016 for inspiration or select one of the following scripture verses to base their artwork on:

'And these are the ones sown on rocky ground: when they hear the word, they immediately receive it with **joy**.' (Mk 4:16)

'So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great **joy**, and ran to tell his disciples.' (Mt 28:8)

'When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with **joy**.' (Mt 2:10)

'And the disciples were filled with **joy** and with the Holy Spirit.' (Acts 13:52)

The categories are Infants (K-2) and Primary (3-6).

Please talk to Mrs Brown if you are interested in participating in the competition.

PBS4L

At St Finbar's, I am safe because:

- I will move calmly and safely.
- I will keep my hands, feet and other objects to myself.
- I will use equipment properly.
- I am in the right place at the right time.



At St Finbar's, I am Respectful because:

- I will respect myself and others.
- I will care for people and property.
- I will listen attentively and follow instructions.
- I use a friendly voice and kind, polite words.
- I will look after the environment.

At St Finbar's, I am a Learner because:

- I will always strive for my personal best.
- I will be a role model for others.
- I will be a team player.
- I will be a problem-solver.
- I will never give up.



At St Finbar's we agree to be safe, be respectful and be a learner.



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Attendance

Our School Attendance rate

88.9%

Class Attendance Rates

K	100 %
1	87.5%
2	85.2%
3	85.7%
4	87.4%
5	96.7%
6	78.9%



every learner
every day



Congratulations Award Recipients !

Be a Learner

Jack Ambrosoli
Ethan Atkinson
Erin Budge
Kate Budge
Jessy Burgess
Phoenix Collins
Alana Callaghan
Ethan Donnelly
Matilda Geelan
Finn Gerlach
Matilda Howard
Gabriele Larsen
Theo Maunder
Rachita Pathak

Be a Learner

Louis Pauling
Isla Reece
Adele Taylor

Be Safe

Mitchell Cremona
Roary Evans
Jack McFadden
Sofia Lewis
Quentin Lynch
Finnian McCann
Stacey Lee Naude
Nathan Penny
Olivia Rogers

Be Respectful

Matthew Christie
Angus Dawson
Maiya Edwards
Lucas Fisher
Mitchell Hackett
Callan Loughman
Rachel Martland
James Naude
Mya Pockran
Isobel Reece
Abigail Stanford
Aimee Woods

Living Our Faith in Daily Life

Elijah Baird
Lillian Bastoli
Matilda Geelan
Luc Nilsson
Makenna
Christopher Martland
O'Callaghan
Angus Smith





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School Calendar Dates



[View School Calendar](#)

Enrolments Now Open

The enrolment interview process is well under way for Kinder 2019. If you have a child that you need to enrol and haven't as yet collected an enrolment pack, please do so as soon as possible.

Enrolment packs are available at the School Office or you can phone us on 4724 3600 and we can arrange to have a pack mailed out to you.

Mid year enrolments for 2018 are also available for selected classes. Please give us a call to make an enquiry.

Click on this link to view our Tour Dates for prospective families. Each tour is guided by the Principal or Assistant Principal through the school.

[Tour Dates...](#)



Child Protection Modules for Volunteers

In order to volunteer in the classroom or assist at school events, it is **COMPULSORY** to complete the online Working With Children Check.

We would ask that you follow the link below to the Child Protection Module and complete both modules. Even if you have completed the WWCC as recently as last year, could you please log on and try and update your WWCC for volunteers.

We will soon be in the process of creating a new database for these records and would like it to be up to date.

If you have any queries, please contact the school office. [Child Protection Modules](#)



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Commonwealth Student Banking

A reminder that each Tuesday is Student Banking Day.

If you would like to open a bank account for your child, we have banking information packs available at the school office. There are lots of fun rewards to be earned.

There are some great new rewards for Term 2.



Parish News

[Click this link to read The Parish Barra](#)

Sunday Masses:

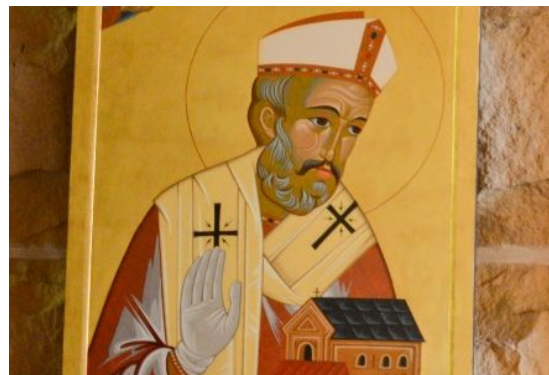
Vigil - 5.30pm Saturday evening
7.30am & 9.30am Sunday morning
6pm Family/Youth
- First and Third Sunday evenings (except Jan)

Weekday Masses:

Monday - 9am
Tuesday - 9am
Wednesday - 8am
Thursday - 9am
(except third Thursday - see Anointing Mass)
Friday - 9am
Saturday - 9am

Anointing Mass

Usually third Thursday of the month at 10am
(except January)



Reconciliation

Saturday evening - 4.45 - 5.15pm, or any time on request

Rosary in Honour of Our Lady

Usually after Wednesday morning Mass.

Adoration & Benediction

Usually after Friday morning Mass.

CATHOLIC FAITH FORMATION: See the Catholic anew and enjoy camaraderie with other parishioners.

Atheism is on the rise. Sceptical thinkers like Richard Dawkins, Christopher Hitchens and Sam Harris vigorously attack belief in God as irrational or, even worse, dangerous. How should Christians respond? How can we turn the tide of secularism and draw people back to God?

You'll discover how with Fr. Robert Barron, using the insights of St. Augustine, St. Thomas Aquinas, Pope Benedict XVI, you'll uncover a clear yet sophisticated understanding of what we mean by "God". Who is God? And why does God matter?

DVD with wine and cheese followed by discussion to four Fridays in June.

Dates: 8, 15 & 22 June

Time: 7.30pm

RSVP: stfinbarsformation@gmail.com



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Mt Carmel Retreat Centre May retreats 247 St Andrews Road, Varroville, NSW, 2566.
Contact: 02 8795 3400 retreats@carmelite.com www.carmelites.com.au

Immersed in your beauty

Presenter: Sr Nory Ordiz, CM

Artist's retreat

The Light of Hope and Peace

Jun 15: 6:00 pm – Jun 17 1:30 pm Cost: \$280.00 (concessions apply)

Presenters: John Charadia & Guest Tutors

Hope in the face of terror

Jun 22: 6:00 pm – Jun 24: 1:30 pm Cost: \$250 (concessions apply)

Presenter: Fr Paul Chandler, OCarm

Where is joy and hope when life can seem to be at its worst?

Love: the flowering and touchstone of the Christian life

Jun 22: 6:00 pm – Jun 24: 1:30 pm Cost: \$250 (concessions apply)

Presenter: Fr Gerard Moran, OCD

As Christians we are deeply loved and called to become lovers. In turn our life in God depends on how we open ourselves and respond to love.

Community News

St Columba's College - A reminder that enrolment applications for Year 7, 2019 at St Columba's Catholic College are now due. For further information contact the Enrolment Secretary, Sandra O'Brien, on 4754 8900 or 4754 8907

Changes to Westbound Glenbrook Bus Stop

Blue Mountains Transit have been advised that the Westbound Glenbrook bus stop opposite Glenbrook Oval is to be closed while construction works take place, effective from Friday the 18th May 2018.

[To view maps and for more information click here.](#)



Glenbrook Panthers Junior Recruitment Open Day - Sunday 24 June at 2pm. Please see attached flyer for further information. [INFO FLYER](#)