

Newsletter



Inspiring. Nurturing. Learning today...Leading tomorrow.

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We pray that, through our choices, actions and words, we may live out our faith in our everyday lives, growing in compassion and generosity. May Your presence be felt through our presence. Amen

Dear Parents

On Wednesday we gathered together as a school community to celebrate our **Ash Wednesday** liturgy, marking the beginning of Lent. Lent prepares us for Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday. Taking place 40 days before Easter Sunday, Ash Wednesday is one of the most important holy days in the liturgical calendar and signals a season of prayer, reflection, penance and fasting. Coming from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting, Ash Wednesday involves applying ashes, made from blessed palm branches from the previous year's Palm Sunday Mass, to a person's forehead. The ashes applied to the forehead symbolise the dust from which God made us. The priest speaks the words:

*"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return"
or "Repent and believe in the Gospel."*

The Ashes we receive are a symbol of penance made sacramental by the blessing of the Church and they help us develop a spirit of humility and sacrifice. The Lenten season is a good opportunity for us all to spend time in prayer, to give to others in need and to 'fast' or 'give up' something as a commitment to becoming a better person. Archbishop Costelloe has proposed that Lent be a time of healing and hope for all in the Catholic community, as individuals, as families, as local faith communities and as the Church. Please see the attached **Pastoral Letter from the Archbishop** included in this newsletter.

St Mary's Parish in Leederville is celebrating its Centenary this year. On **Sunday 4 March**, there will be a special **mass at 10.30am** celebrated by Archbishop Timothy Costelloe. Following mass there will be refreshments in the Aranmore College CASS (gymnasium). **All Aranmore Catholic Primary School families are invited.** I am on the Planning Committee for the Centenary and we are organising a History display. If you have any photographs of Weddings, Baptism, First Communion, Reconciliation occurring in the church and you would like these to be included in the display, please bring a photocopy (no originals) to the school office or parish office by 28 February. Whilst we welcome 'new' photographs we would love to have lots of 'older' photographs for the display. Our school choir and a couple of instrumental students have also been invited to play during the refreshment period.

Our first Prayer **Assembly** for the year was led beautifully by Year 3R with the theme of Lent. Every Friday morning at 8.45am, we gather together in the Hall as a school community to pray, sing our school song and the national anthem and share school news. We acknowledge the children for their fine efforts in wearing their uniform correctly and give out Golden Groom Awards. We also acknowledge the children for their efforts in keeping the school clean and tidy and give out Environment Awards. Merit Awards are also presented to children within each year level from Pre-Primary to Year Six. Each class is rostered on during the year to present a Performance Assembly and to lead the school in a Prayer Assembly. On the last assembly of each term we give out special Mercy Values awards to children who continually display those values in their daily life. Please check the calendar for all dates.

Last year the Government mandated that all schools have a **Code of Conduct**. The purpose of the Code of Conduct is to describe minimum standards of conduct in all behaviour decision-making to ensure the safety and well-being of students. The code applies to staff, students, parents, volunteers and guardians. It promotes positive work practices and establishes expectations for personal and professional boundaries concerning appropriate and inappropriate behaviour in relation to staff, students, volunteers, parents and guardians. It provides guidance about behaviour, relationships, attitudes and responsibilities and outlines the process that will be followed if the code is not observed. Please take the time to read the Code of Conduct on our website –

<http://www.aranmorecps.wa.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/Aranmore-Catholic-Primary-School-Code-of-Conduct-Preamble.pdf>

The **2018 Parent Information Handbook** has been uploaded onto the school website. Please take the time to read through this as it outlines the history, traditions, routines and practices here at Aranmore Catholic Primary School. By reading this information you will see that our wonderful school offers innovative programmes, provides a safe and secure environment for all and encourages parents to become partners in their child's education.

Upon enrolment at Aranmore Catholic Primary School all parents sign the enrolment form whereby it stipulates that parents will agree to abide by the policies and directions of the school and the Catholic Education Office of Western Australia. This handbook is a handy reference for the year ahead and any updated information will be provided via the newsletter or email informing you of any alterations to procedures and policies. 2018 Parent Handbooks for Pre-Kindy, Kindy and Pre-primary have also been uploaded.

What a great evening we had last Saturday at our **Bush Dance**. The Bush Band had lots of people up and dancing and the sausage sizzle was welcomed by many. There was such a beautiful community spirit. Thank you to Mrs Elle Gonzalez-Skuja, our P&F President, all P&F Committee members, other parent helpers, School Board members and Staff, who all helped to make this evening such a fun night for all, bringing families together for the new school year.

As part of the Aranmore CPS 2016-2020 Strategic Plan, in the section of Engagement, one of our goals is to improve communication across the parent and school community. One of the strategies is to raise the School Board Profile. Many families were able to meet the School Board members at the Bush Dance Sausage Sizzle last weekend, as they were busy cooking sausages.

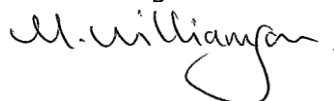
Members of the Aranmore Catholic Primary School Board 2018

Margaret Williamson	Principal
Jeff O'Halloran	Chairperson
Martin Boylen	Treasurer
Darren Kowal	Secretary
Father Angelo	Parish Priest
Alf Parolo	Committee Member
Peta Earley	Committee Member
Jacquie Kubacz	Committee Member and P & F Rep

Another strategy to raise the School Board profile is for a summary of key points from Board Meetings to be published in the school newsletter after monthly meetings are held. Please note that there may be much more discussed at Board Meetings that is not able to be published in the newsletter as it may be of a confidential nature or a work in progress.

Please find below a brief summary from the School Boards February meeting:

- Welcome to new Board Members and Board Induction
- Bishops Mandate – Code of Ethical Conduct appropriate to Catholic schools.
- Discussion of the implementation of the School Improvement Plan 2018 and Strategic Plan 2016-2020
- Principal Report outlining school programmes in relation to Learning, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship with a focus on Religious Education, Pastoral Care and Curriculum.
- School Finance Report
- Thank you to P&F regarding all their hard work and effort thus far this year
- P&F Rep Report
- Parish Report – sacramental programme has commenced
- Code of Conduct- refresher and Child Safety Framework
- Public Relations – continued focus on attracting families to the school; marketing strategies; Open Morning; Facebook
- CEWA, Sisters of Mercy, School Board and City of Vincent negotiations regarding the school site
- Building and Maintenance – Pre-Primary toilets were renovated over the Christmas break



Mrs Margaret Williamson

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Parents please refer to the newsletter and calendar as to when your child's class is rostered to celebrate a Mass, Liturgy of the Word or Prayer Assembly. Masses and Liturgies of the Word will be celebrated in the school Library. Parents are most welcome and encouraged to attend these special events.

LENT & PROJECT COMPASSION

This fundraising event began on Ash Wednesday and will run until the end of Term.

The theme for 2018 is "**A Just Future**" – Fundraising

is an opportunity to raise awareness about important issues, and a chance for the community to take part in a social justice action. Lent is marked by a time of prayer and preparation to celebrate Easter. Since Sundays celebrate the resurrection of Jesus, the six Sundays that occur during Lent are not counted as part of the 40 days of Lent and are referred to as the 'Sundays in Lent'. There are six special feature stories on the Caritas Website for the six weeks of Lent. You may wish to share this with your children at home:



<http://www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion>

Ms Tania James & Miss Sarah Lister
Assistant Principals

PASTORAL CARE

We offer our condolences to Peter and Julie Kerwin (Ruby Yr 5 and Tom Yr 3) on the sudden loss of their 16yo nephew and cousin, Benjamin. Our prayers and thoughts are with you at this very sad time.

CURRICULUM

UNIFORMS

All students are to ensure that the summer uniform is worn correctly. It is important for all students to keep hair neat and tidy and that no jewellery is to be worn except for:

- watch
- bracelet
- one pair of studs or sleepers
- gold or silver necklace with a religious medallion or cross, kept tucked into shirt/dress.

For girls, please ensure that hair accessories are kept to the school colours and hair ties are small. When wearing the Sports Uniform please ensure that sneakers are predominately white.

Please check your requirements for winter uniforms for the commencement of Term 2. Order forms are available from the front office and uniforms are available for trying on at the Uniform Shop on Tuesdays from 8am – 9.30am.

Ms Tania James & Miss Sarah Lister
Assistant Principals

NUMERO

Numero Club – The announcement you have all been waiting for!

The Numero buzz is in the air! It has been amazing how many people are keen and ready to go for 2018. This year, Numero Club is changing to a Thursday, beginning on 22nd February. It begins at 7:45 am and concludes at 8:20 am. This year, Numero Club will be open for students in Year 3 to 6. We will welcome Year 2's in Term 2.

Come and join us for math fun in 5 Red.

Ms Fiona Wringe
Numero Coordinator

ADMINISTRATION

SCHOOL FEES

School Fees have been mailed to your home addresses. If you have any queries/concerns regarding your fees or would like to discuss payment arrangements, please contact Ms Maureen Lloyd, Bursar.

CHANGES TO BPay BILLER CODE

Please be advised the BPay BILLER CODE on the bottom left hand side of the Statement of School Fees has changed. The new Biller Code is: 279505. The BPay Reference number is the same. Please alter these details on your Internet Banking.

24 HOUR STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

All students at Aranmore are covered by our Student Care Insurance Policy. Accidents will happen, and they can be costly. Playing sport, riding bicycles, at home and in the playground, students are always at risk from injury. This Policy provides benefits for a range of (non-Medicare) medical services. Please contact the school office for further information and/or claim form.

Ms Maureen Lloyd
Bursar

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY IS COMING!

Our school photo day is coming! Every student should have received their Kapture Photography order envelope to bring home. The recommended method of ordering your photos is online through Kapture's website as your payment is secure and can be easily verified at any time. If you pay online, there is no need to return the order envelope to school.

Alternatively you can pay by cash and return the provided envelope to the school on the photography day. Please note the photographers cannot open sealed envelopes and cannot provide change.

You also have the option to order a sibling photo package online, however please note **sibling orders will close at least one day before photo day**. We suggest you place your online sibling order as soon as you receive your order envelope with your order instructions.

Late payment envelopes cannot be accepted by the school office or by Kapture. You can place an order online for class or individual photographs at any time for the remainder of the current school year however a \$15 fee will apply if you order more than 10 days after photography.

If your child is in a sports or special group photo, you can use the same school code on your order envelope to view and order these photos on Kapture's website, around the time that school photos are ready to be delivered. Please note: Class group, individual and sibling portraits are not available to view online.

Kapture offer a money back guarantee for any parent who is not fully satisfied with their photo package. Should you have any queries before or after photo day, please direct them to the Kapture office on 9240 1714 or email enquiries@kapture.com.au.

*All students will be photographed individually on photo day for school administration records AS WELL as included in their class group photo available for purchase to all families. Should there be any reason why your child should **NOT** be included in the photo shoot –please contact the school office.*

CHILDREN'S ATTENDANCE – AS PER PARENT HANDBOOK

A small reminder for all families below:

- Children are required to attend school unless they are ill and this includes days for which special events are planned, e.g. camps or sport days.
- To ensure the children's safety and for legal requirements by the Education Act of W.A. parents are asked to comply with the following:
- If a child is to be absent or arriving late on a particular day, parents are asked to notify the school by 8.30am. Notification is also needed for dentist and other appointments such as dentists, doctor etc.
- When a child returns to school after being away, a written, signed and dated explanation must be given to the teacher.
- Children are not permitted to leave the school grounds during school hours without written consent of parents and permission from the Principal.
- All extended absence requests from Aranmore Catholic Primary School should be placed in writing to the Principal. This includes such absences as family holidays and a copy needs to be given to the classroom teacher. Children will be provided with school work to complete for extended holidays.
- Children must be signed in by parents/guardians when arriving late to school.

SIGNING CHILDREN IN AND OUT

It is important to remember that when your child / children either arrive late for the day or are picked up before the end of the day, that they are signed in or out.

Please note: If you are signing your child out of school Mrs Ellen will call for your child/children from their class. Parents are not required to collect their child from class.

DUTY OF CARE

All visitors, including parents, must come via reception when on the school grounds outside of normal pick up or drop off times. The back gate, undercover gates and glass door to the double story building will only be open from 8:30-9:00am in the mornings and 2:30-3:10pm in the afternoons.

Ms Tania James & Miss Sarah Lister
Assistant Principals

P & F

These are the wonderful people who have nominated to be Class Rep. A huge thank you to all of you!

CLASS	RED	GREEN
PreKindy	Flor Tassone	
Kindy	Danielle Hadley Troy Sledinski	Danielle Cameron Theresa Miloskeski
Pre Primary	Georgia Bouhla	Nadia Auletta
Year 1	Priscilla Maffulo Natalie Bond	Fiona Tiller Narelle Mounsey
Year 2	Rose L'angat	Grace Grennan
Year 3	Amanda Houghton	Taylor Ly Suzie King
Year 4	Sharon Pinesi- O'Brien	Anna Infirri
Year 5	Casey Harman Nicola Burton	Stephanie Lavictoire
Year 6	Andrea Murray	Lisa Pappas

CONTACT LIST

Contact lists will be sent directly to Class Reps today.

BUSH DANCE

Thank you to everyone who came along to the Family Bush Dance on Saturday. We had a lovely evening, the weather was perfect and hopefully everyone enjoyed themselves. A big thank you to everyone who helped out, we can't run these events without our volunteer support, it was very much appreciated.

FAMILY CAMP OUT

A big thank you to Meg Clarey for once again organising the Family Camp out. The Camp Out will be held on **Saturday 10 March** in the Adventure playground area. **Please note that any relatives other than parents who plan to sleep over must have a Working with Children check.** Please contact the school office for further details. To book your spot at the camp out please follow the link below. More details in the flyer at the end of the newsletter.

www.trybooking.com/UESQ

Mrs Elle Gonzalez-Skuja
P&F President

SPORT

CONGRATULATIONS

Senna in Yr 5 has been selected to go to Spain. Soccer is one of Senna's passions and he has been training hard two to three times per week and playing games every Sunday. Senna's team will have a soccer camp in Spain before the tournament against Spanish and Portuguese youth teams starts. We wish him all the best for his special trip mid March.

INTERM SWIMMING LESSONS

Best of luck to all our students from Pre-primary to Year 6 who will commence their Interm Swimming lessons on Monday 19 February through to 2 March. These lessons will be held in the **outdoor and indoor pool at Beatty Park Aquatic Centre**. Parents please make the necessary requirements to ensure your child is protected from the sun during these lessons i.e. rashie and sunscreen.

All permission notes should have been read, signed and returned to your child's classroom teacher.

COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS

As of February 7 Coles supermarkets, Coles Express (excluding fuel), and Coles online customers will receive one Sports for School voucher for every \$10 spent. These vouchers can be collected and deposited in to our collection boxes located in the Front Office and the entrance into our School Hall. These vouchers will be tallied at the end of the programme to earn sporting equipment for all our classes.



Mr Phil Tsang
Sport Teacher

ARANMORE SWIM CLUB

Week 2 of swim club we had a great turn out with 24 children. It wasn't the warmest of mornings but it seems that Tuesday never is. We had two newbies Jonah Clarke (3R) and Cormack Hull (4G) this week and two newbies last week Jaxon Kowal and Hazel (3R). Well done to all our new swimmers and to our regulars as well.

Remember the swimming carnival is just around the corner (9/3/2018) so now is the time to get fit and swim. See you next week - toes in at 7am!

Mrs Roslyn Soanes
Swim Club Coordinator

ARANMORE NETBALL

Welcome back to 2018. It's that time to start thinking about **NETBALL** for our children in Years 3 to 6!

This year I hope to have as many, if not more teams than last year! Boys are more than welcome at **any** year level and we have had boys play over the years. For any of those boys that already play other sports, like basketball for example, a season of junior netball can really help with their footwork development and spatial awareness.

As in previous years we will have to fill teams on a 'first come first served' basis so get your **details to me as soon as possible** so we can get all our registrations in on time.

Jennifer Saliacus
Netball Coordinator (0419 939 945)

MERCY VALUE OF THE WEEK

DIGNITY

Show respect to everyone -
We are all made in the image of God

9 February 2018

SPECIAL REMINDER DATES FOR TERM ONE

- Labour Day Public Holiday – Monday 5 March
- School Photo Day – Wednesday 7 March
- Faction Swimming Carnival – Friday 9 March
- P&F Family Camp Out – Saturday 10 March
- K-6 Learning Journeys (3.15pm – 6.30pm) – Tuesday 10 April
- Aranmore Day – Thursday 12 April
- Term One concludes – Friday 13 April

ALL SACRAMENTS PREPARATION NIGHT

Wednesday 4 April 7.00pm St Mary's (Yrs 3, 4 & 6)

COMMITMENT & ENROLMENT MASSES FOR ALL SACRAMENTS:

Saturday 7 April & Sunday 8 April

CONFIRMATION

- Confirmation Parent Night 1: Wednesday 11 April 7pm at St Mary's Church
- Confirmation Parent Night 2: Thursday 10 May 7pm St Mary's Church
- Confirmation Retreat & Rehearsal Day: Saturday 12 May 1.30pm – 4.30pm
- Sacrament of Confirmation: Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 May

RECONCILIATION

- Reconciliation Parent Night 1: Wednesday 25 July 7pm at St Mary's Church
- Reconciliation Parent Night 2: Thursday 16 August 7pm at St Mary's Church
- Reconciliation Retreat & Rehearsal Day: Saturday 18 August 1.30pm – 3.30pm St Mary's Church
- Sacrament of Reconciliation Night: Thursday 23 August

FIRST EUCHARIST

- Holy Communion Parent Night 1: Thursday 2 August 7pm at St Mary's Church
- Holy Communion Parent Night 2: Wednesday 29 August 7pm at St Mary's Church
- Holy Communion Retreat & Rehearsal Day: Saturday 8 September 1.30-4.30pm at St Mary's Church
- Sacrament of First Communion: Saturday 15 & Sunday 16 September at St Mary's Church

COMMUNITY NEWS

MERCY ASSOCIATES 2018

Are you looking for a lay group with a focus on spiritual development, the virtue of mercy in our everyday lives and mutual support? An invitation is extended to try, without obligation, Mercy Associates. This is a lay group of women and men committed to both the works and support of the charism of the Sisters of Mercy and to the ideal of living, as best we can, Mercy in our everyday lives.

Our first gathering for 2018 followed by afternoon tea is on Sunday 25 February at St Catherine's House of Hospitality, 113 Tyler St, Tuart Hill from 2-4pm.

If you'd like to "come and see" please contact:

Jan - mercyassociatestuarthill@ismapng.org.au

Margot - 94445559

DEAF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM CAMBODIA

Fr Charles Dittmeier has been working in Cambodia with the Maryknoll Missionaries for the last 17 years. Fr Charlie is here in Perth and welcomes you to join him at the Emmanuel Centre from 4:30pm-9pm. Fr Charlie will share village recipes and stories from Cambodia. This is a free event.

Tel. (08) 93288113

Email: Emmanuelcentre@westnet.com.au

CANTEEN

MONDAY	19 Feb	Andrea Cherrington
WEDNESDAY	21 Feb	Lucy Keating
FRIDAY	23 Feb	Anna I/Megan Clarke
MONDAY	26 Feb	Belinda
WEDNESDAY	28 Feb	Yuka
FRIDAY	23 Feb	Anna S/Sandra P

Mrs Belinda Civiletti
Canteen Manageress

St Mary's Leederville Centenary Celebration

Mass of Thanksgiving
Sunday 4th March, 10:30am

Celebrant Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB

Refreshments will follow after Mass
Aranmore College Centre for the Arts, Sports Science
Corner of Franklin and Oxford Street, Leederville





8 February 2018

**Message from
Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB
Archbishop of Perth**

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

If the Scripture scholars are correct, and the Gospel according to Mark is the earliest of the four Gospels to be written down, then the first recorded words of Jesus in the gospel tradition are these: *the time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; **repent and believe in the gospel*** (Mark 1:15). These same words may well be addressed to you as you come to receive the ashes on your forehead on Ash Wednesday. They express very clearly the invitation of the Season of Lent which we are beginning together. They are words which can guide us all as we journey towards the celebration of Easter.

To take these words of Jesus seriously is to acknowledge that all of us, as individuals and as communities, are in need of repentance. Between what God is calling us to be and what we have so far made of our lives there will always be a huge gap. The words of Psalm 50 are true of each of us individually, and true of the communities of faith of which we are a part: *my offences truly I know them, my sin is always before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned; what is evil in your sight I have done* (Psalm 50:3-4).

Acknowledgment of our sinfulness, and of our inability to free ourselves, unaided, from its pernicious grasp, is the first necessary step towards healing and wholeness. We see this pattern over and over again in the gospels, where Jesus is only able to heal and restore those who are broken once they have come to him, realizing their need and their helplessness, and recognizing him as the only one to whom they can turn. The gift of forgiveness, healing and wholeness is being offered to us today by the Lord, just as it was offered to the woman caught in adultery (John 8:1-11), to the paralyzed man lowered down to Jesus through the roof by his friends (Mark 2:1-12), to the man born blind (Luke 18:35-43), and to so many others including the Scribes and Pharisees who were so opposed to Jesus. Many people said "yes" to the gift of healing and hope offered by Jesus. Some did not. The Scribes and Pharisees, or at least some of them, were so locked into their own sense of self-righteousness that their hearts were closed to Jesus and it seems that he could do little for them. Forgiveness and hope are always gifts, never impositions. The freedom to accept these gifts depends on the recognition both that they are being offered and that we desperately need them.

The first step in repentance therefore is the recognition of those things for which we need to repent. And for this to happen we need the grace of true self-knowledge. This is true for each of us as individuals. It is also true for us as families, as local faith communities, and as the Church. This idea is expressed in another of the psalms:

When I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy on me; my strength was dried up as in the summer's heat.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I did not hide. I said, "I will confess my offence to the Lord." And you, Lord, have forgiven the guilt of my sin (Psalm 32:3-5).



In our Catholic tradition we are very familiar with the idea of an "examination of conscience". We know that this is an essential part of our preparation to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For many of us it is also an integral part of our daily prayer life; in our evening prayers we look back over the day to recognize where we have failed and ask for God's forgiveness. In both instances it is possible, of course, to fool ourselves, turning a blind eye to the *"plank in our own eye"* while being very quick to point out *"the splinter in another's eye"* (cf. Matt 7:3). This too finds expression in one of the psalms in which the writer prays: *Lord, from hidden faults acquit me, for who can discern his own errors?* (cf. Psalm 19:12).

In examining our consciences, individually and as communities of faith, there is always a risk that we do so only in a superficial manner. We list off the things we did which we should not have done. We might also, more challengingly, reflect on the things we did not do which we should have done. This Lent perhaps we can go even further and deeper: perhaps we can consider what lies in our hearts for, as Jesus says, ***"from within, out of the heart of a person, come evil thoughts, fornication, theft, murder, adultery, coveting, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person"*** (Matt 7:2-23).

How do we read our hearts? How do we read ourselves? Perhaps by reflecting on where most of our time, and energy, and material and personal resources go. Jesus invites us to do this when he says to us: *Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume them and where thieves break in and steal them, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven ... for where your treasure is there will your heart be also* (Matt 7:19-21). The individual sins we commit, including those involving our failure to act when we could and should have done something, point to our wounded and selfish hearts, for all evil things come from within, and they defile us.

And so Psalm 50, which begins with the words, *Have mercy on me God in your kindness and in your compassion blot out my offence* (Psalm 50:1) also includes the petition, ***A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me*** (Psalm 50: 10).

At this time in our history we are very conscious of our need for a pure heart and a steadfast spirit as the insidious power of sin at work in our own Church communities confronts us. The Final Report of the *Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse* has shone a blinding light into the dark places of the Church, enabling us to realize the terrible burden so many have had to bear, and still bear, because of the devastating failures of some clergy, religious and other Church personnel and the often grossly inadequate response of some of our leaders to this shocking betrayal of trust.

Notwithstanding the good work the Church has done and continues to do for so many people in our society, we now know that the Church in Australia has had a dark and sordid side. We have much to be ashamed of, much to apologise for, much to seek forgiveness for, and much to learn. It would be a further betrayal if we did not, as a community, commit ourselves in this particular Lent to a time of prayer, penance and reparation, and to concrete action.

As a small part of this commitment I am asking two things. **Firstly that the first four days of Lent, from Ash Wednesday to the Saturday after Ash Wednesday, be set aside as days of fasting and reparation in sorrow for child sexual abuse and for the healing of victims and survivors.** In doing this we will be joining with the whole Catholic Church throughout Australia. I have organized for resources prepared by the Bishops Commission



Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB
Archbishop of Perth

for Liturgy to be made available to every parish to help us make these days meaningful for us all.

I am also asking that every parish and every other Catholic community in the archdiocese **set aside Sunday March 11, the Fourth Sunday of Lent, as a further day of special remembrance and prayer in our archdiocese for all the victims and survivors of sexual abuse in the Church.** The first reading for that Sunday speaks of *"all the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, adding infidelity to infidelity"* and being deaf to the *"messenger after messenger"* which the Lord God sent them to call them back to him (cf. 2 Chronicles 36:14-16). The second reading speaks of Christ through whom *"when we were dead through our sins (God) brought us to life"* (Eph 2:5). The Gospel speaks of those who *"though the light has come into the world ... have shown they prefer darkness to light because their deeds were evil"* (John 3:19). To our shame we can see the story of the Church in Australia in regard to the sexual abuse of children and young people mirrored in these words. On this Fourth Sunday of Lent when the readings will prompt us to reflect on how far some members of our Church have strayed from the path of fidelity we should pray with great earnestness and sincerity for those who have suffered so much because of this infidelity. I sincerely hope that every parish and every other Catholic community which gathers for Mass on this Fourth Sunday of Lent will pray very explicitly and publically for all the victims and survivors of this terrible assault on their human dignity. And of course, unless our prayer is accompanied by practical action to assist those who have suffered and to ensure that no-one in the future suffers in the same way, we will be deserving of the scathing words of Jesus addressed to some of the Scribes and Pharisees: *You are like whitewashed tombs which outwardly appear beautiful but within are full of dead men's bones and all uncleanness* (Matthew 23:27).

In one of the hymns used in the official Prayer of the Church for Lent the following lines occur:

What we have darkened heal with light; and what we have destroyed make whole.

The sexual abuse of children and young people has tragically brought great darkness to many people's lives and for some has destroyed their ability to live life with any joy, hope and companionship. While we must and will do everything we can to repair the damage which has been caused, we must also recognize that ultimately it is God who is the healer. This is why prayer and action must go hand in hand as we seek to respond as the Lord expects us to. We do need God to create new hearts in us. We do need to acknowledge our sins and the weakness and frailty which can blight our lives and the lives of others. We do need to repent and believe, really believe, in the gospel.

May Lent be a time of healing and hope for us all - as individuals, as families, as local faith communities and as the Church.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Most Rev Timothy Costelloe SDB DD
Archbishop of Perth



Family Camp Night

Join in the fun with other Aranmore families and pitch a tent on the school grounds (around the Adventure Playground area) for a camp night.

Saturday 10th March

When: Set up from **4pm**

Play before a BBQ dinner.

Pack up after a BBQ breakfast the following morning.

\$10 Family Camp Fee

Sausage sizzle (\$3), hamburgers (\$5) available for purchase on the night.

Bacon and egg rolls (\$5) available in the morning.

Note, orders to be processed prior to the event.

- BYO additional food & drinks
- **Alcohol Free**
- Tents only (or swags/mattresses)
- Pre-Kindy to Year 6 Aranmore Catholic Primary School children, with their parents, all welcome
- School amenities will be available
- **Any adults, other than parents, who plan to stay the night MUST have a current Working with Children check card and present it to the school office by Monday 5th March. This includes grand-parents**

Family Camp Fee and Food bookings to be made at www.trybooking.com/UESQ
Deadline: Monday 5th March



Queries: Meg Clarey 0438417566 jcandmeg@westnet.com.au