Dear Parents and Carers,

The Gospel reading from last Sunday – 4th Sunday of Lent – was about the woman caught in the act of adultery. There is no mention of the man who I presume was caught in the act but that is a conversation for another time!

The woman is surrounded by a group who are discussing her sinfulness and her punishment – to be stoned to death. I imagine that they were all feeling self-righteous and pretty good about themselves. They question Jesus about what should happen to the woman and Jesus invites the person without sin to cast the first stone. One by one the crowd dispersed until there was only Jesus and the woman. Jesus told the woman that he did not condemn her. As we continue to prepare for Easter with the focus of forgiveness what a wonderful gospel story to reflect on. Jesus does not condemn us either.

Then Jesus stood up again and said to the woman, “Where are your accusers? Didn’t even one of them condemn you?” “No, Lord,” she said. And Jesus said, “Neither do I. Go and sin no more.”

This Thursday we will celebrate Harmony Day. Harmony Day is about celebrating diversity and inclusion. There are some fascinating statistics about Australia’s diversity.

• around 45 per cent of Australians were born overseas or have at least one parent who was
• 85 per cent of Australians agree multiculturalism has been good for Australia
• apart from English the most common languages spoken in Australia are Mandarin, Italian, Arabic, Cantonese, Greek, Vietnamese, Tagalog/Filipino, Spanish and Hindi
• more than 60 Indigenous languages are spoken in Australia
• 92 per cent of Australians feel a great sense of belonging to our country?

These facts are taken from ABS 2011 Census Data.

This Friday we will be acknowledging the 2016 National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. In cases of bullying there is of course the one being bullied, the one doing the bullying and in most cases bystanders. It is the bystanders who need to be encouraged to take a stand against bullying situations. By remaining silent we condone the bullying. At St Gregory’s our 3 school rules provide guidance as to how we should interact with each other. Our words and actions should always demonstrate respect for ourselves and others, our actions should ensure the safety of others and ourselves and when we are fair we create an environment based on justice.

May you always be aware of the great Mercy of God,

Claire Frazer
Principal
From the Principal…….

PRAYERS: Please pray for the grandmother of Liana (1 Blue) and Charlotte (K Red) Holland who had open heart surgery in Sydney last week. We continue to hold in our thoughts and prayers Anne Jochimsen – every time I talk to Anne she asks me to thank you for your prayers. If you have a special prayer intention you would like included in the newsletter, please contact us.

CONGRATULATIONS: Last Friday afternoon at a special Mass at St Christopher’s Cathedral our early career teachers, Bridget Allen, Daniel Hunt and Melissa Taglieri were formally commissioned as teachers in our Archdiocese by Archbishop Christopher Prowse. This Friday they will be absent from school attending the ceremony of graduation from the Australian Catholic University (ACU). We congratulate them on this achievement and wish them every success in their vocation as teachers.

FIRST RECONCILIATION: Next week our Year 3 students will have the opportunity to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. 3 Gold and 3 White on Tuesday 22nd March & 3 Blue and 3 Red on Wednesday, 23rd March from 10am in St Gregory’s Church. Parents and friends are most welcome to attend.

CROSS COUNTRY: Our initial concerns in relation to the Cross Country was the extreme heat! How ironic that we had to postpone due to rain. My thanks to everyone for being flexible in late minute changes. The Cross Country will now be run next Monday, 21st March.

TLC: Today teachers participated in the second of our nine Teacher Learning Communities sessions to be held this year. In colour teams the teachers shared a new technique that they had tried since our last session based on formative assessment. Teachers also shared about the classroom observations that they had undertaken in pairs. I am always impressed by the professionalism displayed by our teachers and their willingness to be observed by their peers.

YEAR 5 & 6 LAPTOPS: We are excited at the full implementation of GAFE and Chromebooks in Year 6 this year and Year 5 and 6 next year. These are used primarily to access Google Apps for Education and Google Classrooms, which are both intertwined, cloud-based applications used by teachers to deliver immersive and multi-dimensional learning experiences that students can access outside of school hours via their school administered Google accounts. We would like to invite all parents and carers of current Year 5 and 6 students to an information session regarding Chromebooks and GAFE in the classroom and at home. This will be run by Garreth Wigg (ICT coordinator) in the MacQuoid Street Library tomorrow evening, Wednesday, 16th March at 6:30pm-7:30pm.

WHY A WALKATHON? The major fundraising event conducted by our school is our annual walkathon to be held on the last Friday of this term – FRIDAY 8th APRIL. I am a fan of the walkathon because it is such a wonderful community event that involves all students and their families. I have worked in schools where the main fundraising event is a Fete and I have to admit I am not a huge fan. My experience is that the bulk of the work falls to a few hard working group. It often involves lead up activities that families are encouraged to participate in such as sending in items, gold coin donations or cooking for the fete. It can also require that classes prepare for the fete which can impact on learning time. PLEASE support the Walkathon as much as you can as a family.

PARENT MEETINGS: If you have not yet had contact with your child’s teacher can I suggest that it might be good to touch base before the end of term. There’s plenty of evidence that shows positive communication between parents and teachers helps improve academic performance. As your child’s greatest teacher and role model, it’s vital that you get involved in their schooling. Your child need to see the importance that you, as their parent, put on their education. Parent-teacher meetings are a great opportunity to communicate with your child’s teacher and hear how your child is tracking academically and socially relative to their classmates. However, they are also a great way to discuss any troubles or questions you may have regarding your child. Teachers can be contacted by email.
HARMONY DAY

This Thursday, 17th March St Gregory’s will be celebrating Harmony Day. This day celebrates Australia’s rich cultural diversity, inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. It is a day for all Australians to embrace cultural diversity and to share what we have in common. The central message for Harmony Day is that ‘everyone belongs,’ reinforcing the importance of inclusiveness to all Australians. This year’s theme is ‘our diversity is our strength’ which Australia has truly embraced throughout our history. Each class will be part of an activity based around this theme and will hopefully gain a deeper respect and understanding of our rich cultural diversity. Ryan Matchett – Aboriginal Contact Teacher

SPORT NEWS

Laurie Daley/Mal Meninga Finals - Good luck to the students who will be representing St Gregory’s tomorrow in the Final of the Meninga Cup/Daley Shield rugby league; Logan Summerell, Emmet Smith, Cooper Lovekin, Brayden Hickey, Dejan Celeski, Domenic Staltari, Jake Blakey and Riley Thurling.

CROSS COUNTRY - Unfortunately due to wet weather the Cross Country was cancelled last Friday. It will now be held on MONDAY, 21 MARCH at Wright Park, Queanbeyan. All students from Years 3 to 6 will participate. Parental assistance is required. Could any volunteers please meet Mr Maloney at Wright Park at 11:45am. Thank you.

LIBRARY NEWS

Premiers Reading Challenge 2016

St Greg’s currently have 225 students enrolled. Congratulations to our first student to complete the Challenge - Eva Rowley 3 White and also completed are Seth Marsden 1 Red, Imogen Hales 2 Gold and William Hales 4 Gold. Some user names and passwords are still being sent out to families. All should be received by Thursday, 17th March. It is not too late to register. Forms are available from the Notes tab of St Gregory’s website http://stgregsps.nsw.edu.au/notes/
Any queries can be directed to rosalind.wythes@cg.catholic.edu.au but please ensure you include your child’s name and class in your email.
Thank you - Ros Wythes, Library Assistant.

PROJECT COMPASSION

Peter Taloni (5 White) has registered with the Leukaemia Foundation World’s Greatest Shave. The ‘GREAT SHAVE’ will take place at the 9am morning assembly at MacQuoid Street on Wednesday, 30th March. Please sponsor Peter by sending in donations to school or donating online at http://my.leukaemiafoundation.org.au/petertalonl

In May 2016 the National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. The tests will be conducted across Australia on the following dates:

Tuesday, 10th May – Language Conventions & Writing
Wednesday 11th May – Reading
Thursday 12th May – Numeracy
Friday, 13th May – A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for any students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.
Please contact Erin Taylor if you have any queries relating to these tests.
**ST GREGORY’S QUEANBEYAN NEWSLETTER**

**NUDE FOOD WEDNESDAYS**

St Greg’s are urging students to bring a Wrap Free recess and lunch every day but especially on Wednesdays. On this day, we ask that your child’s recess and lunch contain as few items as possible that must be thrown away. Ideally, your child’s lunch will only contain items that may be eaten or composted. By participating, students will have a better understanding of how we can take action to reduce our waste. Wrap free recesses and lunches also save money and promote healthy eating. [http://www.wow.sa.gov.au/nude-food.html](http://www.wow.sa.gov.au/nude-food.html)

Thank you for supporting this initiative.

**MOTHERS DAY STALL**

The Mother’s Day Stall will be held on Friday, 6th May, 2016. The aim of the stall is to give students an opportunity to purchase a gift for a special lady in their lives. We are asking all families to please donate a small wrapped gift (clear wrapping please) to the value of approx. $5-00. Please send your gifts to school by Friday, 8 April.

Some ideas for donations include: candles, face washer and soap, chocolates, notebooks, diary, journals, pens, photo frames, hand lotion, jewellery, kitchen gadgets, cook books, tea towels, coffee mugs, etc.

If you would like to volunteer to help with preparing gifts or on the stall on the day please email Di Smith at diannesmith82@gmail.com - Thank you.

**OUR SCHOOL RULES**

Stay Safe,  
Be Fair,  
Show Respect.

**ICAS COMPETITIONS**

The UNSW is offering students an opportunity to participate in the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS).

ICAS is an annual skills development assessment program in key areas of learning for students in Years 2-12. Assessments are available in Digital Technologies, English, Mathematics, Science, Spelling and Writing.

ICAS gathers performance information through a 30-60 minute supervised in-school test. These tests are voluntary.

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<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Tech (Yrs3-6)</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
<td>Thursday, 19th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>Science (Yrs2-6)</td>
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<td>Friday, 3rd June</td>
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<td>Writing (Yrs3-6)</td>
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<td>Friday, 17th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spelling (Yrs3-6)</td>
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<tr>
<td>English (Yrs2-6)</td>
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<td>Friday, 5th August</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics (Yrs2-6)</td>
<td>$8-00</td>
<td>Friday, 19th August</td>
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If you would like to register your child, please collect a registration form from MacQuoid Office, school website or Skoolbag and return it, along with your entry fees, to school by Friday, 18th March, 2016.

**‘e-LEARNING’**

We have updated elements of the school webpage ‘e-Learning’ section with resources regarding cyber safety and information relevant to apps and social media such as Snapchat, Facebook, Kik Messenger and Instagram for parents and students. Please keep your eye on the school website over the next few weeks, as we add information videos related to other apps, programs, online issues, e-Safety in general and other important videos relating to aspects of educating your children. Videos can be found in the ‘About Us’ > ‘Resources for Parents’ section of the school website.

If you have any questions regarding issues related to this, please contact Garreth Wigg, our school ICT coordinator, via email at garreth.wigg@cg.catholic.edu.au – Garreth Wigg, ICT Coordinator.

**CANTEEN NEWS**

Helpers at Lowe Street this week are:  
Thursday 17th March  Michelle Welch  
Friday 18th March  June Lawrence

Volunteers are always welcome at MacQuoid Street, even if just for an hour or more. Please contact Rosemarie on 6297 2221. Thank you.

**YEAR 6 LAPTOPS**

2016 marks the first year of 1:1 devices and Google Apps for Education (GAFE) in Year 6 at St Gregory’s Primary School. After successful introduction and trial of the program in Terms 3 and 4 last year, we are excited at the prospect of full implementation of GAFE and Chromebooks in Year 6 this year, to enhance all areas of learning. We would like to invite all parents and carers of current Year 5 and 6 students to an information session regarding Chromebooks and GAFE in the classroom and at home. This will be held in the MacQuoid Street Library at 6:30pm on Wednesday, 16th March – Garreth Wigg, ICT Coordinator.
NOTICEBOARD

Queanbeyan Junior Rugby
Players Wanted to Join the Whites Junior Rugby
We Are Looking For Players Aged 6 to 18
Interested?

Please Email the Club at info@whitesjuniorrugby.org.au

ST GREGORY’S QUEANBEYAN
NEWSLETTER

Mass Times
The Three Days of Easter
Holy Thursday, 24th March 7:30pm
Mass of the Lord’s Supper
Adoration until 10:00pm
Good Friday, 25th March 10am
Stations of the Cross
St Raphael’s Church
Good Friday, 25th March 3pm
The Lord’s Passion
Saturday, 26th March 7:30pm
Easter Vigil
Easter Sunday, 27th March 7–7:30am
Something New
(A “He has Risen” Liturgy)
St Gregory’s School Hall,
Molonglo Street, Queanbeyan.
Followed by coffee & hot cross buns
Sunday, 27th March at 8am & 10am

Deanery Assembly
Mercy and Marriage in Family Life
Saturday 30th April
St Joseph’s School
North Goulburn
9.30 for 10.00am – 3.00pm
Two representatives from St Gregory’s School have been invited. If you would like to attend please RSVP to Jane King by 1 April Ph: 6297 2221 or jane.king@cg.catholic.edu.au

Counselling & Therapy Services

NORTHERN MISSION
Incorporating Queanbeyan, Michelago, Bungendore and Braidwood Parishes

QCFC Junior Soccer
2016 Registration Open

Who: U6 – U17
When: Season Starts 30 April (training to commence March)
Where: High Street Field (Opp McDonalds)
Cost: U6-U11: $120; U12-U17 $190
Covers Uniforms, Capital Football fees and equipment
Info: www.qcfc.com.au or call us
Rego: online at www.myfootballclub.com.au
Contact: Junior Coordinator

ST GREGORY’S QUEANBEYAN
NEWSLETTER

PARISH OFFICE DETAILS:
Open: 9-3pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (Closed for lunch 1–1:30pm and all day Wednesdays)
Address: 47 Lowe St, Queanbeyan
Postal: PO Box 175 Queanbeyan 2620
Phone: 6299 4611
Email: queanbeyan@cg.org.au
Web: www.stgregorysparishqueanbeyan.com

For more information or to book an appointment, please contact:
Ph: 6297 2221 or 6297 2222
E: jane.king@cg.catholic.edu.au

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