

# St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 2 Week 1

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

I firstly would like to say a huge thank you for working in partnership with our school, during this time. It is such a great example we are setting for our children of the home and school values we hold towards learning.

Time is flying and yet it also feels so slow....we have experienced such an unusual start to this year. We had January bushfires and February Floods. In the midst of Covid - 19, we almost forget these past months we as Australians have weathered. During this time, we have had our great Australian lifestyle change, we have families who have lost work, the anxiety around the unknown.

I understand and acknowledge that there have been many emails. So the Newsletters will attempt to be brief and faith filled. I have put together this prayer after coming back from Term 2 holidays and adapted a Beatitudes for a Global Pandemic.

## **TOUGH TIMES: Some Helpful Thoughts**

Lord, when I feel myself sliding into the pit, stay close; sit with me in my silence and confusion and give me your shoulder to lean on. Prevent me from falling too far, and in your good time, help me to rise to my feet again, in Jesus' name.

"The Lord is faithful. He will strengthen you and protect you." 2 Thes. 3: 3. Lord, I know you are here for me; in you I feel confident.

For those who are going through trials, who need help and compassion. Lord, we pray.

For all of us gathered here; that we may remain attentive to those entrusted to us. Lord, we pray.

That we may be delivered from all anxiety. Lord, we pray.

God, thank you for my life today; I am so appreciative of your presence and the life you have given me again, a new beginning.

God, grant me the ability to get my life up and going; to get past the fears and blocks, to be positive in my thinking.

God, prompt me to turn to you for constant inspiration. Let me remember to praise and thank you for all that is.

Loosen my grip on the disappointments and grievances I hold onto so tightly. Release me from the pain of past hurts, of present anger and tension, of future fears.

"I waited patiently for the Lord; then he stooped down and heard my cry." Ps. 40: 12.

Jesus our peace, you never abandon us. The Spirit always opens a way forward to the fathomless depths of your compassion and love. Though our prayers are not consistent, we search for You in confidence, knowing that your love will lead us through our hesitations and our doubts.

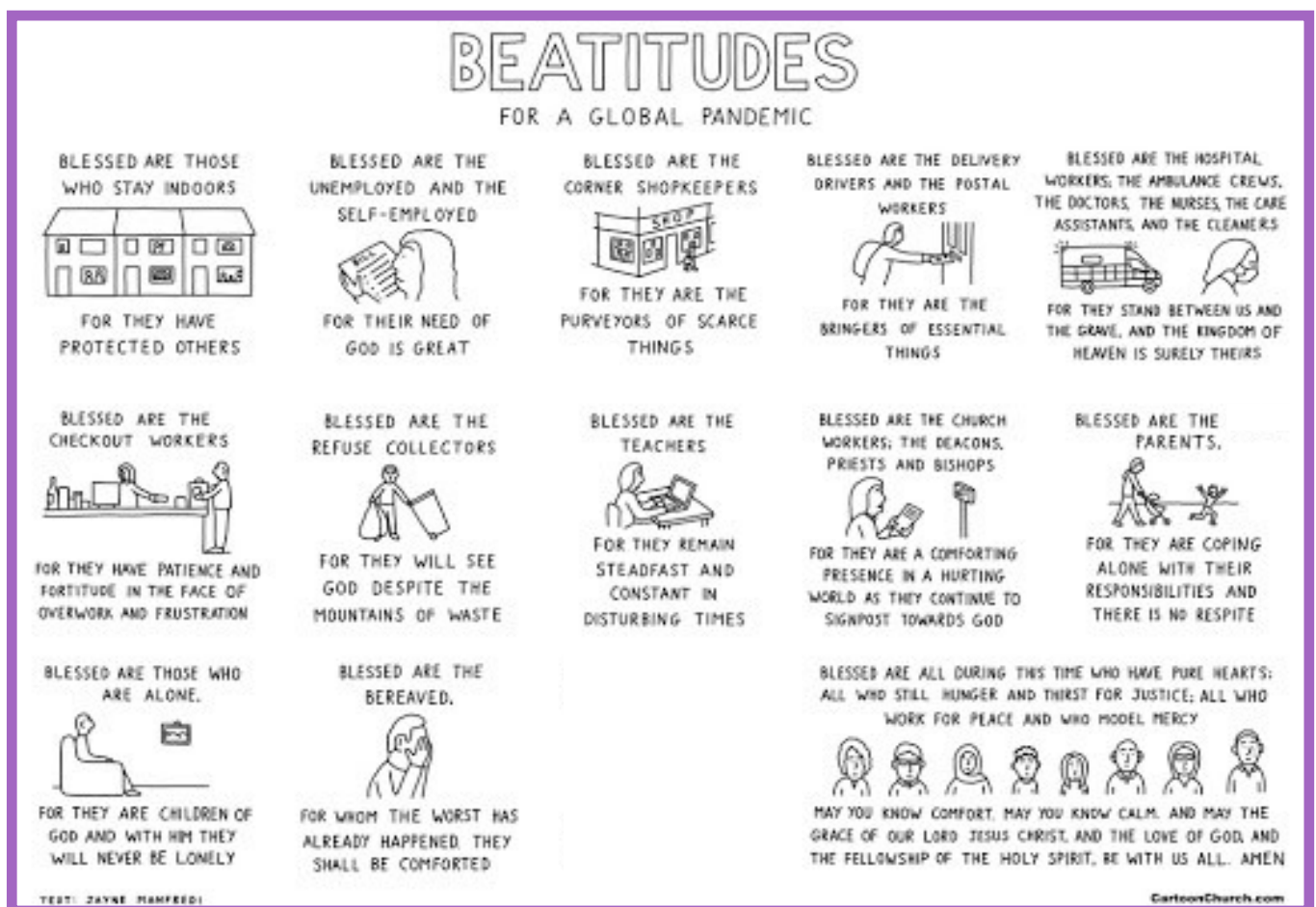
The act of giving ourselves to God and turning everything over to Him in our prayers, is a way to happiness that will deepen our roots. Our search for happiness is our search for God. True and lasting happiness can only be found in a living viable relationship with our creator God. Viola Jaynes.

Lord, fill our lives with your compassion, so we can support those who are going through times of difficulty, discouragement, disillusionment. Help us to show them the way of your love. Amen.

This week, with other local Principals in our Penrith area, we were the first group of educators to have a teleconference meeting organised by Melissa McIntosh MP Federal Member for Lindsay with the Australian Government Minister for Education, the Hon Dan Tehan MP. We had this opportunity to raise and discussion educational issues. He was open in answering our questions via this teleconference. He wanted to thank and acknowledge the hard work we are all doing during this time.

Peace and Joy

Anita Knezevic  
Principal



## Procedures adjusted due to Covid-19

### Health and Hygiene:

NSW Health advice states that children who become ill while they are at childcare or school should be sent home as soon as possible. In the event that your child presents unwell at school, parents and carers will be contacted. If your child becomes sick at school, they will be sent to the sick bay where parents will be called to collect their child. This includes children with a runny nose, cough, fever or sore throat. We ask that you collect your child in a timely fashion. If your child is sick they should not be at school until they are well.

### Kiss and Ride / Drop off and Pick up

The following procedures will be in place when dropping and picking up students:

- Parents and carers need to be conscious of social distancing during morning and afternoon pick up.
- Parents and carers **do not enter the school grounds**
- Students will be asked to open their car doors at car pick up.
- Parents are to continue to use emails as much as possible rather than visiting onsite (school office) as this will help eliminate adult to adult contact.



We kindly request that you contact the school by email if you have any questions. These emails will be forward onto the appropriate staff members. [Stnicholas@parra.catholic.edu.au](mailto:Stnicholas@parra.catholic.edu.au)

## Transition Phases for this COVID-19

The purpose of these transition days and changes in certain procedures is to:

1. **Limit** the number of students and parents onsite to approximately 25% each day.
2. Enable good **social distancing** by adults and children whilst on site as well as adult to adult.
3. Allow students to **re-engage** with their Stage Teacher and students
4. Provide a **face-to-face** learning opportunity for teachers to review remote learning materials with students.

### **Phase 1 - Remote Learning Continues** **Wednesday 29 April - Friday 8 May (Weeks 1 - 2)**

- Remote Learning continues as per the end of Term 1.
- School and teachers continue to support the learning of students who are on site at school and learning remotely from home.

### **Phase 2 - Transition to Onsite Learning** **Monday 11 May - Friday 29 May (Weeks 3 - 4)**

- Schools begin transition of small groups of students being onsite on allocated days according to the family groups. This will be emailed out to families. The onsite learning will replicate the same content as the online home learning with face-to-face teaching with one of their Stage Teachers (unless absent) in their learning space.
- Any parents and carers who need to send their child to school on a day/days which is not their rostered day are still able to do so. Teachers will continue to support the learning of students who are at physically at school and learning remotely from home.

### **Returning and Collecting Home Learning Exercise Books**

On the student's rostered day back to school in Week 3, we are asking all students to bring all hard copy home learning work samples. This should include the exercise book provided in Term 1, any on A4 or scrap paper. These will be collected and kept by teachers. New exercise books will be provided at this time for students to continue to record any home learning they complete at home.

For the children, whose parents are choosing to keep them at home rather than send them to school on their rostered day, we ask that they drop off any home learning work samples completed in Term One or Two and collect new exercise books on Wednesday 13 May.

### **School Photos**

School photos will be distributed to students on their rostered day back to school in Week 3. For the families choosing to keep their children home on their rostered day, school photos can be collected from the office on Wednesday 13 May.

### **Mother's Day presents**

On the student's rostered day back to school in Week 3, the students who have purchased a Mother's Day gift will be able to make their selection. Gifts will be set aside to ensure that the students who are attending on the Friday have a range to select from as well. For the children, whose parents are choosing to keep them at home rather than send them on their rostered day, they are able to select their gift on Wednesday 13 May. We understand and appreciate the timing of the gifts after Mother's Day however we wish to ensure everyone's safety as much as possible.

### **School Fees**

Many families are concerned about fees in the current environment. There are two links below which explains how fee relief support is available to those experiencing financial hardship as a result of COVID-19.

The letter sets out a clear process for parents and carers to receive the help they need. Please note:

- There are multiple ways that families can apply for fee relief, including via an electronic form (Qualtrics), a downloadable PDF and hard copy (available from the school)
- A Fee Relief 'Frequently Asked Questions', as well as a link to electronic form and the downloadable PDF will be placed on the CEDP and school websites
- There is no cut-off date for applications for fee relief at this time.

[COVID - 19 Fee Relief Information](#)

[Fee Relief Request](#)

We are here to help. If you would like to have a confidential conversation about any of these matters, please contact Rhonda Shirvington at the school to discuss.

### **Winter Uniform**

As Term 2 has commenced, school uniform is to be worn daily for any students learning on site. Full winter uniform is to be worn by the start of Week 4 Monday 18 May 2020. Of course if the autumn weather is cooler, your child may like to wear this during Week 3 as well. Only students attending school on a Wednesday will need to wear sports uniform (as sport will be on the learning timetable on this day). All other days, students are expected to be wearing full school uniform.

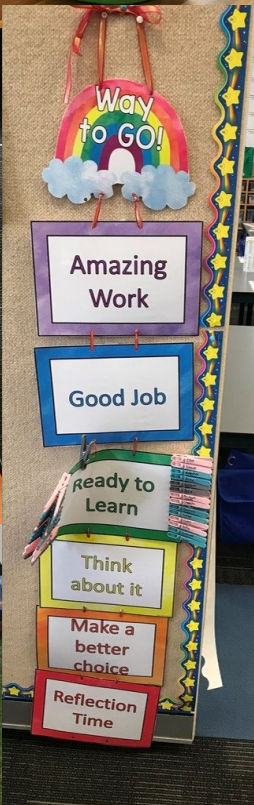
### **2021 Kindergarten Enrolments**

During the midst of the current climate this can be something that easily slip our mind. Thank you to all of the new and existing families who have already completed their enrolment forms. I am disappointed to not be meeting you all face to face as this is a time I really enjoy!

In the interest of everyone's health and safety, the usual process of a welcome interview with the child, parent/s and the Principal is unable to take place at the moment.

- please download the enrolment application from the schools website
- once completed email this into the school
- the application will be reviewed
- if questions arise from the application the Enrolment Officer or Leadership Delegate will make a phone call to clarify
- a letter of acceptance or recommendation will be sent to you via the post

2021 is an exciting year and we are beginning to fill up our numbers so please do not delay!



Truth Through Learning

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