Dear Families of Our Lady of Lourdes,

Last Sunday as a Parish community we celebrated the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes. The day began with the celebration of the Eucharist and we were privileged to have both Bishop Vincent and Fr Henry concelebrating. We are most grateful to Bishop Vincent for being among us. The celebrations continued after Mass with cake, BBQ, face painting and craft for the children, and music. Thank you to the many members of the parish including a number of our parents who contributed to making the day a success.

I share with you an extract from Fr Henry reflecting on our feast day.

“Perhaps we are familiar with the story of how the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Bernadette Soubirous, a peasant girl at the grotto of Massabielle eighteen times from February 11 to July 16, 1858, and always identified herself as the Immaculate Conception.

Perhaps we are also aware of what happened to Bernadette as she decided to join the Sisters of Charity and Christian Instruction at Nevers in 1865, died in 1879, was beatified in 1925 and canonized in 1933.

Named after Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Catholic Community here is proud of such a spiritual connection, and ever conscious of her irreplaceable position in our lives as Jesus’ mother and also his best disciple. We come to her, the source of strength, and healing for every moment of our lives and through her we are led to the Lord Jesus.

As Jesus’ disciple, she is so humble and generous to say Yes to God’s invitation in the Annunciation, and so encourages us to relate to God in the same way, which is to say ‘yes’, a strong ‘yes’ in every sense of the Gospel this week, to what we are called to do as Jesus’ disciples in the world today.”

God Bless
Keiran Byrnes
**GOLD AWARDS**

Congratulations to this week’s Gold Award winners:

| Year 1 | Sai    |
| Year 2 | Ivy    |
| Year 3 | Gabriella |
| Year 4 | Thomas |
| Year 5 | David  |
| Year 6 | Charlise |

**MEET THE TEACHER INTERVIEWS**

On Tuesday 21st February, we will be conducting our ‘Meet the Teacher Interviews.’ This ten minute meeting is your opportunity to tell us about your child(ren) and discuss any issues which will enable us to construct effective teaching/learning programs. Please come prepared with the information you would like to share about your child with their teacher. Your child is welcome to come to the meeting with you.

Teachers will be available on Tuesday from: 3:10pm – 9:00pm.

You can now book interviews at times that suit YOUR FAMILY BEST.

Go to [www.schoolinterviews.com.au](http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au) and follow the simple instructions.

**SCHOOL EVENT CODE:** **23m8x**

**BOOKINGS CLOSE FRIDAY 17th of February at 10:00pm.**

**SCHOOL PHOTOS**

Our school photo day is NEXT Wednesday, 22nd February. Envelopes outlining the packages available were sent home on Monday. THESE ENVELOPES CAN ONLY BE SENT TO SCHOOL ON PHOTO DAY AND NOT BEFORE. Each envelope is individually barcoded for your child. Family photo packages are available by contacting the office.

Children are to wear their full summer uniform. Students in Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 4 ARE TO WEAR THEIR SUMMER UNIFORM. NO SPORTS UNIFORM. Girls should have long hair tied back with appropriate ribbons or scrunchies.

**PARENTS AS EDUCATORS**

A reminder that our next Parents as Educators course will be held next Wednesday, 22nd February, at 6:30pm, in the library. To assist in any way at school this year – including excursions, iceblock sales, Mothers’ and Fathers’ Day stalls or Year 6 Graduation activities you need to have completed this course either this year or in 2016.

**JUMPER FITTINGS**

The new school jumper can only be tried on and ordered this Wednesday and Thursday and next Tuesday between 8:00am and 8:30am and between 3:00pm and 3:30pm. No appointment needed. The jumpers will only be ordered once this year and will not be for sale after next week.

**SCHOOL FEES**

Term 1 School Fees have now been issued and are due by Monday, 6th March 2017.

School Office hours are 8:30am – 3:30pm (Closed from 10:40am to 11:00am)

All payments and enquiries can be made during that time. Payments may be made by cash, cheque, EFTPOS, BPAY, Post BillPay or by Credit Card. Details are located on the bottom of the statement. When paying by BPAY please use the current statement. We advise that we are unable to process EFTPOS payments after 3:30pm.

Please contact Mrs Monique Kearins on 9622 7216 if you wish to discuss your school fees statement or if you are having financial difficulty in paying the fees.

**LATE STUDENTS**

If your child is late coming to school we ask that you please come in to the office with them and complete the necessary paperwork.
School Hours
8.10am Supervision on the playground starts
8.40am School day commences and children should be ready for class at this time
10.40am – 11.00am Recess
1.00pm – 1.50pm Lunch
2.50pm Final dismissal time
3.20pm Supervision finishes at and all children should be collected by this time. Thank you.

SCHOOL WEBSITE
Each week the Newsletter and any notes that have been sent home are uploaded on to the school website and can be downloaded if necessary.
http://www.ololshills.catholic.edu.au
For notes go to
- Parents
- Notes for home
select the appropriate year group or for general notes e.g uniforms - select:
  - Whole school notes
For newsletters go to
- News and events
- Newsletters
If you have any queries please contact the office and we are happy to help.

Out and About
On Friday we celebrated our Opening school Mass. Apart from the fact that it was an extremely hot day, the Mass was beautiful and the children participated reverently and respectfully. Our theme for the Mass was ‘We are the Face of Christ’ and our hope is that our children and families try to follow in the footsteps of Jesus as they journey through life. We prayed together so that 2017 is another wonderful year in which we choose to follow the path that Jesus leads and that we all continue to grow in love, faith and compassion for each other.
Thank you to all of the parents and families who attended the Mass and helped to make it very special and welcoming for everyone.

On March 1 we will be celebrating Ash Wednesday with a Mass. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent. Lent is the period in which we prepare for Easter - the death and resurrection of Jesus. During Lent we will be journeying together and preparing our hearts and our lives for the new hope that we are promised at Easter. Lent is a time of prayer. Lent is a time for thinking about the way we live. Lent is a time for looking into our hearts and trying to be better people. It is a time for saying ‘sorry’ and asking for forgiveness. And it is a time for coming back home to God who loves us so very much. During the Mass we will be receiving the Ashes to mark this special occasion. Mass will be at 9.15am and everyone is warmly invited to be a part of this very important occasion in our liturgical season.

Janelle Bawden
Acting Religious Education Coordinator

Save the Date
OLOL Spring Fair
4 November 2017

OLOL PARENT GROUP
THANK YOU
Thank you for those that helped at the Lourdes Feast day on Sunday. It is so nice to see the Community come together to celebrate such a special day.
STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Last Friday we celebrated our Opening School Mass and commissioned our student leaders for 2017. We are sure they will represent our school with pride. Congratulations to the following students.

**School Captains:**
*Jessica and Caidyn Joel*

**Sports Captains:**
*Red: Chloe and Noah*
*Blue: Sophie and Jayden*
*Yellow: Annelise and Daniel*
*Green: Abbie and James*

**SRC:**
*Year 3: Cassandra and Enrique*
*Year 4: Makayla and Rhys*
*Year 5: Charlotte and Ezekiel*

These school leaders made a special pledge about how they will serve Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School. This pledge is included below.

“I accept my position as a special leader in our school this year.
I commit myself to the service of Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School.
I will strive at all times to do what is right and just; to act with sincerity and respect.
I will strive to be of service and represent my school with pride.
I will strive to act in such a way that I bring honour to my school, benefit to all students and be a credit to myself.
I promise to …

- Follow our school motto and “Engage, Learn, Challenge”
- Be a good leader and an example to other-Work cooperatively as a member of a team, and
- Always give my personal best.”

Coincidently, last Sunday, Bishop Vincent at our Parish Feast Day Mass reflected in his homily that leadership is not about power or position and drew our attention to the example of leadership that Jesus gave us. That is to serve others.

_You call me Teacher and Lord; and you are right, for so I am. If I washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you._” John 13: 13-16

As these young people take up their leadership role they will have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills and they will come to understand that a true leader will put others’ needs first, trust God, and treat others with respect, love, and kindness.