

# Release and Renew

Lent 2021

We should observe Lent, because we want to accentuate the positive influence of the Holy Spirit in our lives and to eliminate the negative influence of sin. So, we have to “Accentuate the positive, Eliminate the negative, Latch onto the affirmative ....” and be happy about it!

With Lent about to begin we need to think about how our children can participate in a positive manner. Lent is a time to spring clean our spiritual lives and a call to spiritual renewal. We ask our children to do extra and be more thoughtful about what they do during Lent rather than give up things.

Father Francis once spoke to us about putting on our Lenten SPF 40. Sharing, Praying and Fasting for 40 days. For children sharing might be a sharing of time, offering random acts of kindness, phoning or writing a letter to a grandparent. Praying could be leading the family prayer before meals, praying for someone else before they go to bed, praying thank you prayers instead of asking prayers. Let’s be thoughtful when we speak to our children about Lenten promises and make Lent a positive experience in spiritual thoughtfulness and growth.

Lent in 3 minutes is a quick [video](#) about the purpose of Lent.

Year 5 are preparing to lead our **Ash Wednesday Mass** which commences at 10.00 am. Parents are welcome to attend but must sign in with the QR code in the foyer of the church and sit separate from the students in the pews on the righthand side. Whilst masks are not compulsory we encourage the wearing of masks for adults indoors. Ashes from our Mass will be sent to the Kinder and Year 1 students for distribution.

Some of our Kinder parents are organising pancakes to kick off our Lenten journey on Tuesday. Please order via QKR and a big and sticky thank you to our parents.

Last Friday Year 6 led the school community in a beautiful outdoor liturgy to celebrate the beginning of a new school year, welcome our wonderful kindergarten children and to accept leadership roles in our school community. Year 6 students displayed reverence as they enacted the Scripture and led our students in prayer. Thank you Fr Dave for presiding over this Mass and **thank you Year 6**; we look forward to a fantastic year with you as our student leaders.

## Sacramental Program

The Parish Sacramental program is looking a little bit different this year. For information regarding the 2021 -2022 Sacramental program please go to this [link](#). This year, Year 3 will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation by participating in the Parish Sacramental Program complemented by teaching in the classroom.

## Burning the Palms

On Tuesday Yrs 3 and 4 were able to witness the Burning of the Palms. Led by Father Paul, palms from last year's Palm Sunday were burnt. The ashes will be used on Ash Wednesday beginning of the Lenten season, a 40-day period dedicated to reflection, prayer and fasting ahead of Easter. Below are some statements from Year 3 and Year 4 students about their experience and what they learned.

*"I learnt that you burn the palm leaves and put the ashes in a jar for a week to cool. The palms that are burnt come from Palm Sunday the year before." – Leon A (Yr 3)*

"Father Paul put the palms in a fire pit. He will use the ashes for Ash Wednesday." – Grace P (Yr 3)

*"At the beginning we saw a tub full of palms and Father Paul set the palms on fire. He did that for Ash Wednesday next week." – Zara B (Yr 4)*

"Year 4 has been learning about the burning of the palms to make ashes. We loved seeing the palms being burnt. We watched this because it is important that we as kids know how the ashes are made." – Joey H (Yr 4)

Yours in Religious Education,  
Mrs Kerrie Wetzlar

