



IONA PRESENTATION

PRIMARY SCHOOL MOSMAN PARK

NEWSLETTER

24 MARCH 2016

FROM THE PRINCIPAL



IONA PRESENTATION

**PRIMARY SCHOOL
MOSMAN PARK**

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OUR MISSION

*Iona Presentation Primary School,
as a loving community, seeks to
educate each child within a
framework of Catholic values in an
atmosphere of trust, openness and
truth*



NANO NAGLE

*The lantern she carried through the darkness
in the streets and lanes of Cork became a
symbol for the poor of God's love, touching
and transforming the harshness of their lives
and offering hope. Today that lantern has
become the symbol of the mission of the
Presentation Sisters around the world.*

Easter is upon us –especially important for Catholics is the Easter Triduum, the three days before Easter. On Holy Thursday, we re-enact the Lord's Last Supper, which He shared with His apostles on the night He was betrayed and arrested. This is a beautiful liturgy to attend. At the Mass, the priest washes the feet of twelve people, just as Jesus did. It is also a special time for priests as they renew their vows. The reason for this is because, at the Last Supper, Jesus not only instituted the Mass (Eucharist) but also the priesthood.

Good Friday is the day our Lord was crucified and services are at 3pm. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for us all. Holy Saturday is a vigil where we watch and wait for Jesus to rise again. In many parishes this is also an occasion where, after a long process of discernment, the RCIA candidates are received into the church. Sunday of course is a day where we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. As Saint Paul wrote in [1 Corinthians 15:14](#), "If Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain." Christ's Resurrection is proof of His Divinity. I encourage you to attend the masses that will take place in your respective parishes at this very special time of our Liturgical year.

You may have noticed some work going on in the school this week. As part of our ongoing maintenance, we have upgraded the CCTV security system we had in place and added an additional camera to the rear of the school. The antiquated

analogue system was replaced with the more contemporary digital technology.

As many of our families would be aware, the surface to the tennis courts was replaced last year at significant cost. In order to maintain the integrity of the surface it is necessary to remove some of the trees that run parallel to fence line. The trees in question send down roots that eventually surface underneath the courts damaging them and making them unsafe. The foliage dropping from the trees is also causing problems with the drainage in the area. Once the trees have been removed we will look at suitable options to replace them.

This week our students were involved in a twilight swimming competition at HBF stadium. The girls swam so well and finished equal second with St Hilda's. Our Year 5s won their group pennant - Year 4s came second. MLC won overall. Considering the size of our squad, these results are amazing! Many thanks to Mrs Le Tessier for her work with the swimming team this term, you have done a wonderful job, Rebecca.

Sr Maura pbvm, who has held a pastoral role at Iona for a number of years, will be leaving us at the end of the term. On behalf of staff and students, I would like to thank Sr Maura for her significant contribution over many years to the life of our school. We wish her well as she takes up new challenges.



EASTER REFLECTION

We do not call it 'Bad Friday' although, for the one who lived and died the torture of that day, there would have been nothing good about it.

This One, this Christ who used nature to describe eternal truths, who spoke of the cycle of the seasons with images of grains of wheat, fields, grapes, figs, fishes, sheep and flowing water.

This one was too steeped in agony to remember that even the rarest flower must die to produce a seedling.

But we, who bear the gift of His life and death, call it Good Friday and carry with us the knowledge that in Him our lives have been made larger this Easter journey.

COMING UP...

25 MARCH
GOOD FRIDAY

28 MARCH
EASTER MONDAY

29 MARCH
EASTER TUESDAY

31 MARCH
9.00 Year 2 Mass

4 APRIL
12.30 - 6pm Parent Interviews

7 APRIL
9.00 Whole School Mass

8 APRIL
End of Term 1

26 APRIL
STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

27 APRIL
Term 2 starts

On behalf of the staff and myself, I wish all our Iona families a Happy Easter. May the Risen Lord find a place in your hearts and home. We look forward to seeing you all return safe and refreshed on Wednesday 30 March.

My God bless

Christine Walsh
Principal

Strategic Plan

Our Strategic Plan 2015-2018 is now available for the community to share. We have posted it on our website under the *About Iona* tab.

We would like to thank the Iona community - staff and parents who have been part of working parties who have contributed to the Strategic Plan. Your input has been greatly appreciated. We look forward to realising the goals over the next 2 years. Our website address is: ionaps.com

Interviews

As one part of our reporting policy, we provide parents/carers with the opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher(s). As indicated on the Term Calendar, these interviews will take place on **Monday 4th April 2016, 12:30 – 6:30pm (school finishes at 12.00pm on this day).**

The aim of this interview is to affirm your child's learning and to provide you with valuable information early in the year.

The interview may include:

- discussion of your child's strengths and achievements.
- discussion of areas that require further development.
- goal setting for Terms 2, 3 and 4.

All parent(s) / carer(s) are invited to make an interview time, which runs for between ten and fifteen minutes.

This year, we have started an online booking system for parents. The link to access this is:

<http://www.ionaps.com/interviews/>

As there may not be enough slots available on the day, teachers may need to make alternate arrangements to meet with parents. Please contact your child's teacher if you are unable to make an appointment on the day.

Sacraments

A reminder to parents that the school Sacramental program is for students in Years 3, 4 and 6.

Baptised students receive the Sacrament of Penance in Year 3. To receive First Holy Communion, a student must have received the Sacrament of Penance. Students in Year 6 receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation must have received both the sacraments of Penance and Eucharist.

If your child is in Years 3, 4 and 6 and has not received the pre-requisite Sacraments and you wish them to make the Sacraments with the class, parents will need to see their Parish Priest to enrol in the after school Parish program.

If you have any queries about this, please contact either Sr Catherine or Jennifer Anderson.



Holy Week - The Blue Ribbon Event of the Liturgical Year - Part 2

In my last column, I wrote about the drama of Holy Week beginning with Palm Sunday. That was like the “calm before the storm.” In this column I am going to write about the second part of Holy Week, which begins today on Holy Thursday with what we call the Easter Triduum. A triduum is three days of preparation, in this case for Easter.

On Holy Thursday there is so much ritual and drama beginning with the Mass of the Last Supper, at which we recall when Jesus instituted the Eucharist or what we call the Mass. He used the common every day elements of Bread and Wine and changed them into His own Body and Blood. He commanded His Apostles and us to do that in remembrance of Him. That is what we do at each and every Mass; we remember the gift of the selfless love of Jesus, and we also receive His Body and Blood. For as Saint Paul wrote in his letter to the Corinthians: “For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes” (1 Corinthians 11:26). In addition to the Last Supper, Jesus washed the feet of his twelve Apostles. Saint Peter is an interesting character in all of this. At first, he didn’t want Jesus to wash his feet, but then he wanted Jesus to his feet, hands and head. I think Saint Peter must have been so confused through all of this drama. I mentioned last time about commitment and the Apostles not knowing what they were getting themselves into by accepting the call to follow Jesus, because when it got too hard, they “fell in a heap.” They fell asleep while Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. I wonder what emotions were going through Jesus’ head at that time, and in particular how he felt about his closest friends letting him down. I think we can all identify with Jesus here. We have all relied upon others, at one time or another only to be let down.

The drama doesn’t end on Holy Thursday though. Things are just “starting to heat up”, because on Good Friday the Passion story is read. In this story we hear about the trial of Jesus, his painful journey (passion) that lead to his crucifixion and death. I liken Good Friday to a crime scene in a show such *Law and Order* or *CSI: Miami*. We’ll call it *CSI: Jerusalem*. You see, they had the “wrong guy” on Good Friday, just as they do sometimes in the crime shows. Even one of the two criminals who was crucified on either side of Jesus worked out that the soldiers had the wrong guy. What did Jesus say at this point; “Father, forgive them they do not know what they are doing.” A powerful statement indeed! But Jesus, would make things right, when he rose from the dead on Easter Sunday morning.

Everything that went wrong during the week was vindicated, and it is this vindication of Jesus, that makes this Holy Week the blue ribbon event of the liturgical calendar.

You will have noticed that during Lent, there has been no Alleluia in any part of the liturgy. We will take that up again at the Easter Vigil. Alleluia, is a cry of joy. So just as we are an “Easter people”, we are also an “Alleluia people”, who will sing this song of joy in praise of the Risen Christ! The “David Jones stock take sale” that we have been doing during Lent that I mentioned a few weeks ago, should turn into a “100% clearance sale” during Holy Week, so that we **totally** declutter our lives of what isn’t important and **totally focus on Jesus** and those things which are important in our lives. I hope you have had a wonderful Lent. I have enjoyed decluttering. I am looking forward to celebrating Easter with joy and having a few pancakes breakfasts along the way, especially those ones with cream, ice-cream, berries and maple syrup on top! I’ll know the Lord has indeed risen, when I have one of those breakfasts during Easter week!

I wish you all a very happy and Holy Easter!

Mr Alessio Loiacono
Liturgy Co-ordinator