

Dear Parents, Friends and Guardians

Blessing of the Foundation Stone – Mary Mother of Mercy Church

This weekend is a significant time for our local Burleigh Heads parish as we celebrate the blessing and laying of the Foundation Stone of our new church, Mary Mother of Mercy Church. Our Parish Priest, Fr Ken, will be joined by two very special visitors for this special ceremony. The first is the Pope's representative in Australia, Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana. He has the official title of Apostolic Nuncio to Australia and he is based in Canberra. Our other important visitor is the Archbishop of the Brisbane Archdiocese, Archbishop Mark Coleridge. There will be a mass in the Doyle Centre at 10.00am and children from both schools will join in with the parishioners from all five worship centres in our parish – Infant Saviour (Burleigh Heads), Our Lady of the Way (Palm Beach), Calvary Church (Miami), St Benedict's (Mudgeeraba) and the local Doyle Centre. Following the mass there will be a blessing of the Foundation Stone and then Morning Tea will be provided in our Multi-purpose Centre. Parents are most welcome to come along to this celebration.

Thanks to our Parents and Friends Association

I would like to thank our P & F Association for their ongoing support of the children of our school. Recently they purchased just over \$15 000 worth of reading books for use across all year levels. Yesterday our President, Anthony Touzell, wrote to Cr Greg Betts of the Gold Coast City Council in regards to the council pathway which leads down to the Sunlight Drive area from behind our school. Anthony was following up on our original contact which asked for the Council to place some fence panels on the edge of the road at the intersection of Reedy Creek Road and Sunlight Drive. We asked for this as a safety measure for the now increased volume of pedestrian traffic utilising this access way. Sadly our request was denied under the issue that our concerns weren't warranted. We would estimate that over four hundred children and adults use this path each afternoon (as well as mornings) and we are concerned that the path comes to within about a metre from the very busy street. I would like to applaud our P & F for this action and let others know that if they wanted to support this initiative they could contact the council directly through their Traffic Engineering Department.

Car Park Challenges

Our new car park and set-down / pick-up area is continuing to be well utilised by families and staff from both schools and it is helping to ensure a safer environment for our children at these busy times. I would like to ask our parents to please be aware of the pedestrian crossing areas in this new zone. There are two – one at the top as you enter the school and the other half-way along the internal road. It is vitally important that we observe the normal road rules when it comes to these crossings and ensure that we slow down and give way to pedestrians. We are still waiting on speed bumps which will be placed near these crossings to remind drivers of this safety aspect as well as speed signs. All of these measures have been designed to address the safety of our children and I appreciate your continued support for these matters.

Retention of Children for a School Year

Outlined below is a repeat of an article I placed in our newsletter last year. It outlines our policy on the retention or repeating of children for a school year. From this year on we will, as many of our sister schools across the coast do, not allow children to repeat a year level. I urge you to take the time to read through this.

"Over the last few years we, as a Leadership Team, have been debating over the issue of retaining children from one year to the next. We have also consulted with our leadership and other relevant departments within Brisbane Catholic Education. There is now considerable research available on the outcomes of retention (repeating) a child in schools.

The following findings have been consistently reported. The overwhelming evidence suggests that the majority of children who repeat a grade, or who are delayed entrance to school, do not necessarily do better as a result. Although some children do appear to benefit, there is no agreement on factors that are predictive of successful outcomes resulting from retention. Some of the main points in relation to retention and its worth are outlined below.

- Late birthdate children who are retained or kept out of school for an extra year initially may do better on academic measures, but these differences tend to disappear over time. In general, differences in achievement related to age tend to disappear by middle school.
- Children retained at the pre-school level generally have multiple needs indicating that specific intervention is required, rather than 'more of the same'.

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Coming Events

Wednesday March 2
Whole School Assembly
Yr 2M - Ozanam Villa

Thursday March 3
Class Liturgies - 2M, 3Y, 2R

Friday March 4
GCCPS Swim Carnival
Yr 3 - Teddy Bears Hospital

Sunday March 6
10am - Foundation Stone
Blessing Mass

Tuesday March 8
School Photos

Wednesday March 9
Whole School Assembly

Thursday March 10
School Photos



Mass Times

Children Mass
(Doyle Centre - children read at Mass)
5.30pm 1st Sunday each month

Children's Liturgy of the Word
(Doyle Centre - children are withdrawn for brief lesson)
10.00am 2nd & 4th Sundays;
5.30pm 3rd Sunday
8.30am each Sunday (school term)
at St Benedict's, Mudgeeraba

Parish Mass Times
Sat—5.00pm Miami;
6.00pm at Palm Beach;
6.15pm at Burleigh Heads;
Sun-7.00am at Palm Beach & Burleigh;
8.30am at Mudgeeraba & Miami;
10.00am at Doyle Centre;
5.30pm at Doyle Centre

- The negative outcomes of repeating are not confined to academic areas. Studies reporting on measures of social adjustment, emotional adjustment, behaviour and self-concept, all indicate that repeating is not helpful in these areas. These outcomes are consistent across all grade levels.
- Many studies show that children's own attitudes towards retention are negative. They typically report that they feel they have failed and have a sense of shame and embarrassment. There is also some evidence to show that learned helplessness may be an outcome for some children.
- Follow-up studies of high school students who have been retained indicate that they generally score lower on achievement measures, are more often absent from school, present with difficulties in the areas of self-concept, peer acceptance, personal adjustment and are more at risk of dropping out of high school.

It is with this evidence in mind, and following advice from the Brisbane Catholic Education Office, we have decided that in the absence of a written letter of recommendation from a specialist such as a psychologist or psychiatrist currently working with a child, that from this year, at Marymount Primary, we will not support the practice of retention.

Should you wish to read of more studies or evidence to support our decision, please see your child's class teacher who can organise for this information to be sent home to you. If this was something which you had been considering for your child for next year I would ask that you also consult with your class teacher or with staff from our Learning Enhancement Centre."

Contacting Teachers during School Hours

I would like to remind parents that if you wish to contact any of our teachers to discuss confidential issues that you please do so through our normal protocols. This can be done by contacting our office to organise a time to meet with the teacher or by emailing the teacher directly to co-ordinate a time. Often such meetings are not good before school as the teachers are busy preparing for the day and also engaging with the children. Meeting up with a teacher just before school at the class door for confidential or contentious issues is unfair to all involved – most especially the children in the class waiting for the start of the day. We have Parent / Teacher interviews coming up in a few weeks so these can be utilised to discuss some of the types of issues I've listed here. If there are pressing matters that can't wait this long then I suggest that you follow the procedures as listed above. Thanks for your support for this matter.

Catholic Schools Swimming Carnival - Friday, 4 March

Good luck to our swimming squad for this Friday's carnival being held at Pizzey Park. Some of our children have already performed well in the Oceanic District Carnival and then at the next level up (The Regionals) so here's hoping that they can join in with the rest of their team-mates for this eagerly-awaited day.

Thanks for reading today and my best wishes for the rest of the week. The football is back on at last so good luck to your chosen team or teams – maybe this year will be a chance for Parramatta to win through!!!

Yours in Christ

Greg Casey

From our Acting Assistant Principal

Tina O'Keefe

Volunteer Student Protection Training

All volunteers are required to complete the Volunteer Student Protection Training before they can volunteer to help out at our school. The training only takes around 15 minutes of your time, you only need to complete the training once a year and it ensures that you are aware of the procedures we have in place to protect our students.

Family who would like to volunteer but aren't parents, e.g. grandparents, aunties etc., will be required to apply for a Blue Card. This can be processed through the school and at no cost to the potential volunteer. Parent Volunteers are not required to hold a Blue Card.

I will be holding another course on Tuesday March 8 at 2:30pm in the staff room. Please email me to let me know if you are able to attend.

Just a reminder for all volunteers to sign in and out at the Parent Reception. It is important to know who is at our school and where at all times, especially in the event of an evacuation or lock down. Thanks for your support in this matter.

World Science Festival

As a self-confessed science nerd myself, I encourage everyone to make some time to visit Brisbane's Southbank Cultural Precinct during the World Science Festival March 9-13 if you can. I know that Street Science will be visiting some year levels at our school this year for some science incursions, but this is a great opportunity to immerse your children in some fantastic science opportunities.

Have a lovely week everyone and stay safe, Tina.

WORLD SCIENCE FESTIVAL comes to Brisbane 9-13 March

Block out the whole weekend in your diary to get along to Southbank's Cultural Precinct and engage with an amazing showcase of the world's most exciting science and the scientists who make it all happen!

Street Science will be performing some massive FREE shows at the main Festival Lab among some other great science educators, and hands-on workshops all day in the 'STREETSCIENCE!' space.

[Don't miss out - check out the online program to plan your weekend!](#)



There was an amazing turn-out at the rural launch of the festival in Chinchilla last weekend where Science Steve presented a super high-energy show to a packed-out crowd, with some help from the Honourable Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Science and Innovation.

Got some really little scientists who don't want to miss out...?

Bring them along to Southbank parklands over the weekend for a Little Scientists' Day Out! Our team will help little learners aged 2 and up to build their very own Bubbling Lava Lamp and make some gooey Bubble Slime.

Then you can kick back on the lawn and be inspired by one of Jess' 3 daily "Out of this World" science shows!

[More details available online.](#)



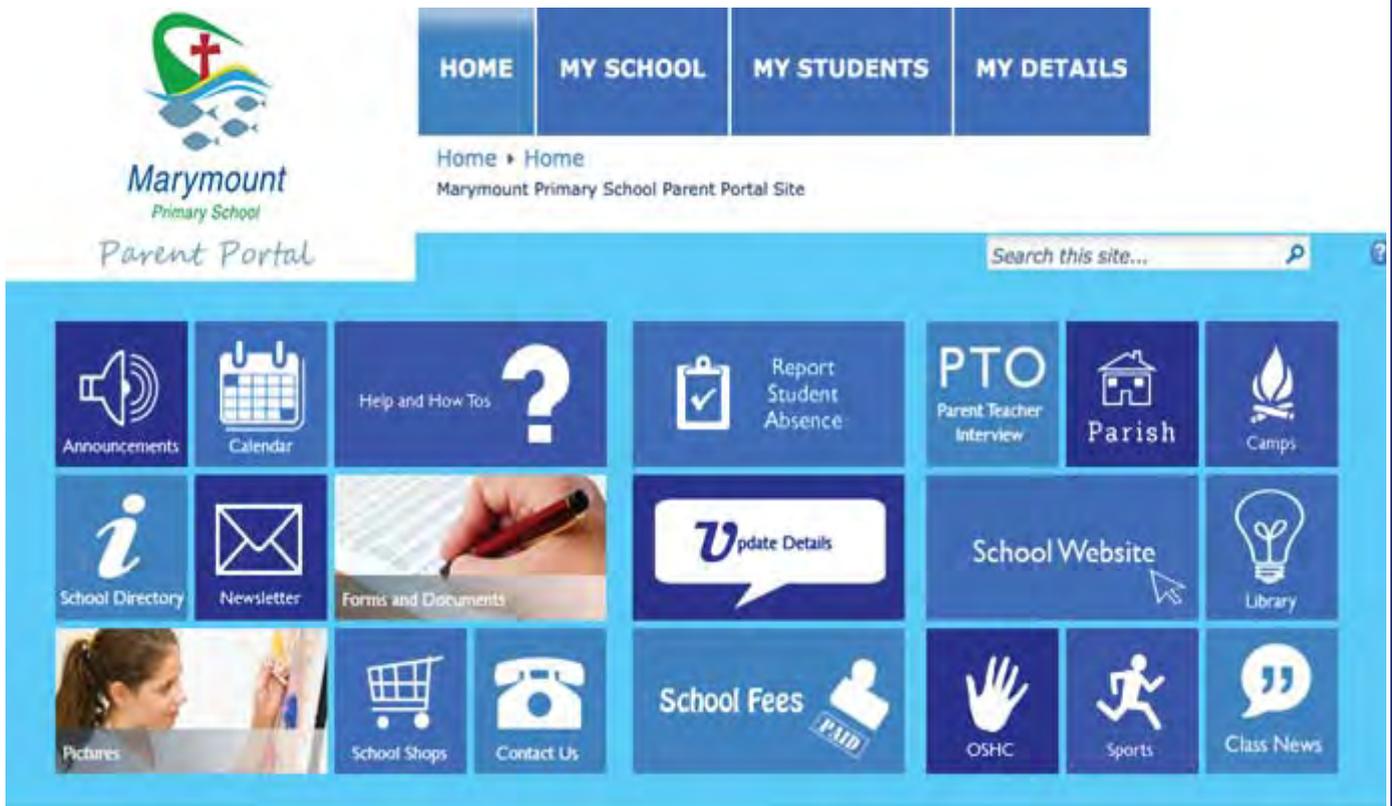
Parent Teacher Interviews - Online

By the end of the week you will receive another email about our Parent Teacher Interviews. The process for booking an interview is fairly simple. It is via PTO website, where you will receive a PIN and login information. Once in the system, you will be able to book a time to see your child's teacher. This system will go live on Friday, and will be open for bookings until Thursday 10th March. (Another reason why your email address needs to be up to date!!!!!!)

Parent Portal

Have you logged onto the new Parent Portal yet??????

We will be making increasing use of the Parent Portal to provide a range of information to parents in the future. The Parent Portal will be used for Newsletters, Class Blogs and Information, accessing Teacher details, Parent/Teacher Interviews, and many other things. It will be the one place to find out what's happening at Marymount!



The initial login requires you to verify your identity and set up a password. This document will run you through the process.

<https://extranet.bne.catholic.edu.au/parent/marymountprimary>

School Photos

Our school photos will be held next Tuesday 8 March and Thursday 10 March. Most class photos will take place on the Tuesday, while family photos will be held on the Thursday. Please ensure children are in their dress uniform (white shirt). A timetable will be available on our Parent Portal in the coming days.

Late Arrival and Early Departure

There is now a new method of signing your child in if you arrive late, or leave early throughout the day. Parents and children need to go to Student Administration and sign in via a barcode/computer terminal. A touch screen terminal is used by parents to add the appropriate information. A slip will then be provided which is to be given to the class teacher. Details of this procedure are available in the announcements section of our new Parent Portal.

Thanks and have a great week,

Tony Barron

CONCESSION APPLICATIONS ARE CLOSING

Please note that completed concession application forms must be sent to the Accounts Office marked to the attention of Janelle Holmes no **later than Friday 4th March 2016** to be considered for this Term. If you do not submit your application within this timeframe you will jeopardize your chances of approval being granted for Term 1. Applications must be received with **All Supporting documentation** attached including a **Current Centrelink Income Statement & Taxation Assessments**, before an interview can be made. At this stage the last appointment date with our School Fees Co-ordinator will be **Wednesday 9th March 2016**. Please phone Janelle Holmes from our Accounts Office on 55208417 if you have any queries.

Laying of Foundation Stone- Mary, Mother of Mercy

This Sunday, 6 March marks an auspicious occasion for Marymount Primary and College, along with the Burleigh Heads Catholic Parish. Pope Francis' representative in Australia, Apostolic Nuncio Archbishop Yllana, along with Archbishop Mark Coleridge will lead the ceremony for the laying of the foundation stone of Mary, Mother of Mercy Church. For many of us, this may be a once in a lifetime experience.

Since the establishment of Marymount Primary and College, the students haven't had a church on site where they can gather for masses and liturgies. Mary, Mother of Mercy Church as a focal church on site, is much needed to add to the religious life of both communities.

It would be wonderful to see our families be part of this momentous occasion on Sunday. Mass will be celebrated in the Doyle Centre at 10:00am. This will be followed by a procession to the Mary, Mother of Mercy construction site at the top of Frank Shine Walk where the foundation stone will be blessed and laid on the site of the altar. Refreshments will then be served in the Marymount Primary Multipurpose Shed, where you are invited to stay for tea, coffee, snacks and cordial for the children.

Our new church, Mary, Mother of Mercy, will be utilised by Marymount Primary and College students for opening liturgies, mass as a whole school, sacramental celebrations, graduations, and liturgy of the word. Therefore, it would be wonderful to see the support of our families on this occasion.

I look forward to seeing you on Sunday for this celebration.

Social Justice Crew

Ten Year Six students who together form the 'The Social Justice Crew' for 2016, lead assembly today. Mrs Bellis and Mrs Krueger work with this group to raise awareness of social justice issues. Their mission is to aspire to live the Gospel message by serving the poor with love, respect and justice and to work to shape a more just and compassionate society both within our school community and beyond. Throughout the year, this group will lead fundraising initiatives to support Caritas and Catholic Missions whilst also raising awareness within our community here at Marymount of the suffering of so many in our world due to hunger and poverty.

Day for Refugees- 2 April 2016

We heard from Mrs Lennon at assembly about the Day for Refugees at Tallebudgera Beach which she assists with. Please see the appeal from her in this newsletter to assist in making this day a success. We always have a wonderful response from our families and thank you for your support.

Ozanam Villa

Year 2M, Mr Pearson's class visited Ozanam Villa today. The children sang songs, read books, and shared morning tea with the residents. These visits always raise the spirit of the residents as well as giving the children an opportunity to interact with older members of the community.

Enjoy the rest of the week

Maree Wright

Refugee Day at Tallebudgera Beach

Every year the St. Vincent de Paul Parish Group unites with their Woodridge branch and gives new refugees to Australia a day at Tallebudgera beach. This year the date for this event is the 2nd April which is the second Saturday of the school holidays. The Marymount community has supported this wonderful day for a few years now.

We need your help! Please go through your cupboards this week as we need clean swimmers for children, women and men [please no bikinis as the women are very modest]. They all need hats, towels [bath or beach towels], backpacks, wet shirts and the women love to wrap themselves in sarongs. Beach toys like plastic buckets and spades, any type of balls, frisbees, soccer or footballs are so appreciated by the children. Please make sure the clothing has no holes and are clean and the toys aren't broken. Please send any of these items to the Student Reception area and I will make sure they all get there on the day. This is our opportunity to share our good fortune with our brothers and sisters who have suffered much hardship. The items need to be in by the last Wednesday of this Term. Last year everyone was so generous and I am sure it will be the same this year.

Families are invited to this day but you must bring your own lunch and drinks as St. Vincent de Paul only provide lunch for the refugees.

Thanks for your support

Jane Lennon



SPEECH PATHOLOGIST CHATTER

I have recently been contacted by some parents regarding assessments of their child's speech and language.

Griffith University offers 2 clinics:

1. Clinic for 3-5 year olds. Commences Thurs 10th March – Thurs 9th June (Thursdays only)
2. Clinic for adults/children of all ages, on a Tuesday and Friday (9.30-5.30) and every other Monday (8am-4pm)

For further information contact Jennai Beckett, Speech Pathologist on 56789220 or j.beckett@griffith.edu.au

A list of private clinics on the Gold Coast is listed on the Therapy Matters website www.therapymatters.com.au. Follow the 'Links' link to the GOSIPP- Gold Coast Speech Pathologists in Private Practice, for a list of service providers.

*Kind regards,
Sharon Cummings*

District Swimming Champions



Congratulations to Hayley Weise, Sean Lunney, Lachlan Kelly and Zali Williams on winning Age Champs at the recent District Swimming Championships.

PATRON PARENTS

- Year OR** - Coffee & Chat -Hidden Perk Café
(15 Ikkina Rd, Koala Park) Wed. 9th March after drop off.
- Year 1S** - Mums Welcome Dinner - Justin Lane (1708 Gold Coast Hwy, Burleigh Heads). Friday 11th March from 7 pm. RSVP – Emily 0407 216 655 by 4th Feb.
- Preps** - Combined Prep Mummy Mixer -Miami Surf Club.
Sunday 13th March @ 2.00pm. For more information join the prep facebook page – search: marymount prep 2016



Book Club orders due
Friday 11 March.

Parents can order online, log-in to www.scholastic.com.au/LOOP or download app for iPhone and iPad from the App Store.
Thankyou!

Curriculum News

Thanks to the quick action & generosity of the P&F we already have \$15 000 worth of new books for the children to learn from and enjoy!

There are books for each and every year level and we are so grateful to the P&F for enabling us to purchase all different types of texts with their donation.

What a wonderful way to start the year!

Deb McKean-Nunan – Early Years Literacy
Deb Cronin –Curriculum Support



Mrs Lennon's Year 3 Class with some of the many new guided reading resources and Home Readers for the Early, Middle and Upper Years.



Our delightful Prep Aides with some of our Preppies and their new take home books to enjoy with an adult at home!

Sport News

South Coast Regional Swimming

Well done to our Marymount Primary students who competed on Monday evening at the South Coast Regional Swimming Trials. Several of our students have already qualified for State Swimming. Congratulations to them. The second night of competition is due to be held tonight at Gold Coast Aquatic Centre, Southport.

Best of luck to those students swimming tonight.

Gold Coast Catholic Primary Schools Swimming Carnival

The Catholic Swimming Carnival will be held this Friday 4 March at Miami Aquatic Centre, Pizzey Park. This is the first of our inter Catholic school carnivals for this year.

The bus to the carnival will depart Marymount at 8.15 sharp. If your child is taking the bus please meet Mr Barron at the main bus stop just after 8am.

If you are taking your child to the pool, please check in with Mr Casey at the Marymount tent.

For approximate times please see carnival program below;

Paul Hill

GOLD COAST CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SWIMMING CARNIVAL PROGRAM					
EVENT NUMBER:	EVENT		EVENT NUMBER:	EVENT	
9.00AM	1	OPEN 100m BOYS FREESTYLE	11.25AM	29	BOYS 8yr 50m BACKSTROKE
	2	OPEN 100m GIRLS FREESTYLE		30	BOYS 9yr 50m BACKSTROKE
				31	BOYS 10yr 50m BACKSTROKE
Approximate	3	8 & 9 yr BOYS 4 x 50m MEDLEY RELAY		32	BOYS 11yr 50m BACKSTROKE
times only	4	10 & 11 yr BOYS 4 x 50m MEDLEY RELAY		33	BOYS 12yr 50m BACKSTROKE
	5	12 yr BOYS 4 x 50m MEDLEY RELAY			
				34	GIRLS 8yr 50m BACKSTROKE
	6	8 & 9 yr GIRLS 4 x 50m MEDLEY RELAY		35	GIRLS 9yr 50m BACKSTROKE
	7	10 & 11 yr GIRLS 4 x 50m MEDLEY RELAY		36	GIRLS 10yr 50m BACKSTROKE
	8	12 yr GIRLS 4 x 50m MEDLEY RELAY		37	GIRLS 11yr 50m BACKSTROKE
				38	GIRLS 12yr 50m BACKSTROKE
9.55AM	9	BOYS 8yr 50m FREESTYLE			
	10	BOYS 9yr 50m FREESTYLE	12.10pm		LUNCH BREAK
	11	BOYS 10yr 50m FREESTYLE			
	12	BOYS 11yr 50m FREESTYLE	12.30AM	39	BOYS 8yr 50m BUTTERFLY
	13	BOYS 12yr 50m FREESTYLE		40	BOYS 9yr 50m BUTTERFLY
				41	BOYS 10yr 50m BUTTERFLY
	14	GIRLS 8yr 50m FREESTYLE		42	BOYS 11yr 50m BUTTERFLY
	15	GIRLS 9yr 50m FREESTYLE		43	BOYS 12yr 50m BUTTERFLY
	16	GIRLS 10yr 50m FREESTYLE			
	17	GIRLS 11yr 50m FREESTYLE		44	GIRLS 8yr 50m BUTTERFLY
	18	GIRLS 12yr 50m FREESTYLE		45	GIRLS 9yr 50m BUTTERFLY
				46	GIRLS 10yr 50m BUTTERFLY
10.35AM	19	BOYS 8yr 50m BREASTROKE		47	GIRLS 11yr 50m BUTTERFLY
	20	BOYS 9yr 50m BREASTROKE		48	GIRLS 12yr 50m BUTTERFLY
	21	BOYS 10yr 50m BREASTROKE			
	22	BOYS 11yr 50m BREASTROKE	1.00pm	49	8yrs Mixed 6 x 50m FREESTYLE RELAY
	23	BOYS 12yr 50m BREASTROKE		50	9yrs Mixed 6 x 50m FREESTYLE RELAY
				51	10yrs Mixed 6 x 50m FREESTYLE RELAY
	24	GIRLS 8yr 50m BREASTROKE		52	11yrs Mixed 6 x 50m FREESTYLE RELAY
	25	GIRLS 9yr 50m BREASTROKE		53	12yrs Mixed 6 x 50m FREESTYLE RELAY
	26	GIRLS 10yr 50m BREASTROKE			
	27	GIRLS 11yr 50m BREASTROKE	1.30PM		CLEAN ALL SCHOOL AREAS
	28	GIRLS 12yr 50m BREASTROKE	1.40PM		PRESENTATIONS

BURLEIGH HEADS CATHOLIC PARISH

Parish Office Hours 9.00am to 5.00pm

Parish Manager: Mr Jim Littlefield

Parish Pastor: Fr Ken Howell

3 Sunlight Drive, Burleigh Waters (Postal PO Box 73, Burleigh Heads)

Parish Pastoral Team

Associate Pastors: Fr Lucius Edomodi & Fr Stephen Camiolo

Phone: 5576 6317/5576 6466 FAX: 5576 7143

EMAIL: burleigh@bne.catholic.net.au