# **BRANCHES**

Term 1 17th March 2022 Issue 3, Week 8

#### Holy Family Primary School, Luddenham

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Dear Parents and Caregivers,

In light of events over the past 2 years (e.g. COVID-19 pandemic, bush fires, floods), we could not be blamed for asking why tragedy is never far from our consciousness. The daily news is also often filled with instances of fear and distrust. When added to the personal tragedies in our own lives, who would blame us for asking "Where is God in this?"

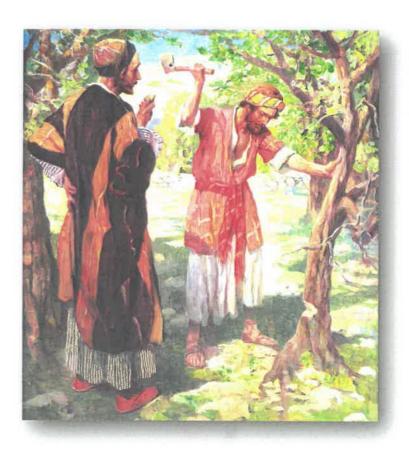
In the Parable of the Fig Tree the message is that of not really knowing what is happening but trusting in God. We never know exactly what is happening for the fig tree underground or why it is not bearing fruit at that moment in time. Perhaps the tree has some type of fungus or disease in the soil. Then again, maybe there was growth occurring underground in the root system and this could not be seen. What we need to remember is that although it was not bearing fruit or flourishing at that moment in time, it was still alive.

Often our lives can feel like this, we feel flat or question why things are happening in our lives, we also are not flourishing. At these times we need to be like the worker in the vineyard, in spite of the fact that we are flat out trying to get through every day, we need to find time to see the potential in every situation. Sr Hilda Scott (OSB) articulates this so well "God is the Gardener who trusts the process of growing; trusts us, grasps what others do not, sees potential, and gives us another chance - and there is no limit with God. He sees what is lacking and is keen to provide it. All he, and we, need is an openness in us to see it through". (Source: Trust Lenten Program: Catholic Diocese of Wollongong)

Mr Anthony McElhone Principal

At Holy Family we are:

- Safe
- Respectful
- Responsible
- Learners



#### Easter Hat Parade

This year, the Easter Hat Parade will be held on the first day back for Term 2, Tuesday 26 April at 9:30am. This will be preceded by our New Life (Easter Liturgy) at 9:00am.

We are asking that you take time with your child/ren over the school holidays to make a hat with them to wear in the Hat Parade. There are some really amazing ideas online, and some really cheap accessories found in shops at the moment.

All parents/carers are welcome to come along to our Easter Hat Parade and see our 'eggciting' and 'eggtraordinary' hats that have been designed by some very crafty bunnies!





#### Easter Raffle

It's time for us to start our Easter Raffle! We are asking if all children could please send in a donation of an Easter Egg for our Easter Raffle by Friday 1st April.

The cost is 15 tickets for \$5 and we will have some great baskets of goodies to win. The raffle will be drawn on Friday 8th April.

The process this year is different to previous years:

- 1. Make payment via the Qkr! App
- 2. Sit back and relax!

Once a payment has been made, we will then put 15 tickets for every \$5 spent in the Raffle Box.

#### Good Luck!

On Wednesday 6th April at 9.15am we will be wrapping our Easter prizes. If you would like to help please drop in to the School Hall.



#### Grandparent's Day - Save the Date

Grandparent's Day will be on Friday, 29 July. This is a day that all in the community look forward to and the teachers and students have already begun preparing for this day with great enthusiasm and energy.

#### 2022 School Calendar

The key date of events and celebrations for 2022 can be viewed in our online school calendar. The calendar can be viewed on our school website:

http://www.hfluddenham.catholic.edu.au/Our-Community/Events

#### Staff Development Days

Following are the dates for the remaining staff development days this year. A reminder that children do not attend school on these days.

- Thursday, 15 December
- Friday, 16 December
- Monday, 19 December



Please note that the student's final day will be Wednesday, 14 December.

#### **Teacher Professional Learning**

At Holy Family the staff has an ongoing commitment to professional learning. The staff benefits from attending inservices, in curriculum areas, that assist them in providing quality learning opportunities for the students in their class. The following staff have or will attend professional learning:

Date	Staff Members	Professional Learning
23 March Mr McElhone System Leaders Meetings		System Leaders Meetings
	Mrs McLean	Early Years EMU Intervention Specialist Teacher Course
24 March	Miss Boggian	Early Career Teachers Orientation Day





## Academic Achievement Awards Congratulations Academic Achievement Awards Recipients



Brody Vojskovic	Sophie Rowley	Hunter Moore	
Marlie Tindale	James Formosa	Connor O'Mahony	
Laurie Buttigieg	Crystal Formosa	Isaac Hall	
Alexis Fowler	Levi Hall	Heidi Lewtschenko	
Maison Vellacott	Mario Crafa	Peter Medwin	
Elijah Johnston	Liam Urschel	Lincoln Sciberras	
Natalia Gauci	Catia Camilleri		
Kobe Jamieson	Jackson Wright		
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## One Heart One Mind Awards Congratulations One Heart One Mind Awards Recipients

Gabriella Tabone	Matilda Stewart	Orlando Johnston
Jake Gauci	Ivy Sharpe	Leon Liu
Scarlett Pomfrett	Brianna Hosking	Lucas Camilleri
Liam Muscat	Anthony Pantazakos	Ella Gunther
Sofia Mammone	Mareena Sciberras	Lavinia Gullo
Heidi Perkins	Harper Miles	Rose Estphan
Marco Marusic	Grace Lopreiato	
Charlotte Farrugia	Gwenevere Sparagis	



### Term 1 Week 8 2022

#### Present:

Anthony McElhone, Amanda Cassar, Marie Edwards, Angela Finianos, Maria Mammone, Tenille Buttigieg, Renee Banovic.

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Principal's Agenda	
Compass Parent Portal     a. Feedback	<ol> <li>The Compass Parent Portal will now be used as a communication channel for notes/newsletters, awards and absences. Seesaw will mainly be used as a class communication channel.         So far it is a lot easier to mark an absence for parents.         Marie to check parents sending emails to teachers - Angela had problems sending direct to teacher.         Marie to check why parents have two user names when they have children at two different schools.     </li> </ol>
2. Playground Update a. Line marking	The playground upgrade has been completed.     The next phase is new line markings which will hopefully be done by the end of this term. The concrete was pressure cleaned over the holidays.
3. Capital Works a. Toilets b. Stage 3	3. Our toilets will all be refurbished by the end of this year.  There was a concern about sensor lights.  Young children may be a bit hesitant in going to the toilet if it is dark before entering. They then will hold on all day which could cause health issues.  Stage 3 re-roofing & refurbishment of inside will be done this year as well.
4. Winter Uniform (Girls) a. Update	4. The girls winter uniform now consists of long navy pants. This item is optional.  It was brought up if we would consider having sports clothes on more than two days a week.  More comfort for the kids.

Community Events/Fundraisers				
<ol> <li>Major fundraiser (for new stage) - Slime Spectacular</li> <li>Easter Raffle</li> </ol>	We will be holding a Slime Spectacular on Friday 20th May. We are raising funds to buy a stage for our hall.			
	<ol> <li>The Easter Raffle will be held on Friday 8th April. The payments this year will be made using the Qkr! App and tickets produced here in the office.</li> <li>Maria to organise wrapping of easter gifts.</li> </ol>			
Parent's Agenda				
1. Canteen	Canteen will go up for tender when due. Parent asked if there was a possibility of having Special Food Days eg. Hot Dog Day, Meat Pie Day etc with parents running this.			
2. Grandparents' Day	<ol> <li>Grandparents Day will be 29th July. Angela and Marie to start with organisation of food. As this is Angela's last year, Tracey Haddad and Maria Mammone have offered to help in future years. Marie and Angela to set up meeting to start discussions. Anthony to find out theme with Julie.</li> </ol>			





### Connections Counselling

**Building Bridges** 

Colleen Nicholas, Dip. Couns. MACA

Individual, Couple & Family Therapist

Counselling For:

\*Personal Issues \*Grief & Loss

\*Relationship Problems \*Anxiety

\*Family & Parenting \*Depression

\*Transitional Life Changes

\*Stress Management

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