Our Lady of the Way Church
Christmas Mass Times

We encourage you all to come along and join the wider Parish community for the Christmas liturgies being held at this special time of year!

**Thursday 19th December**
2nd Rite of Reconciliation, 7.30pm

**Tuesday 24th December**
6pm Vigil and Midnight Mass
(Carols commence at 5.30pm and 11.30pm)

**Wednesday 25th December**
9.30am Christmas morning
(No evening Mass)

Children attending the Vigil Mass (6.00pm) on Christmas Eve are encouraged to ‘dress up’ for the celebration. Please come as angels, shepherds, wise men, Mary or Joseph.

We would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas.

Lord, in this holy season of prayer and song and laughter, we praise you for the great wonders you have sent us: for shining star and angel's song, for infant’s cry in lowly manger. We praise you for the Word made flesh in a little Child. We behold His glory, and are bathed in its radiance.

**A safe and merry Christmas to everyone!**
Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It is with tremendous confidence and a great sense of excitement that I am able to inform you of our staffing arrangements for next year. I would ask you to understand that unforeseen circumstances can and sometimes do arise during the January school holidays meaning that changes may be necessary before the beginning of next year, although this is very unlikely.

How blessed we are to have such a professional and dedicated staff who give so much of themselves, personally and professionally, for the good of the children and our faith and learning community.

Next year the Our Lady of the Way community will welcome to the team Mrs Sue Veling, Miss Kirsty Reynolds, Miss Justine Colyer and Mrs Deborah Robinson (Child and Family Counsellor). These staff will add great professional strength and expertise to the OLOW team.

Once again we say a fond farewell and thank you to Mr Colin Hartley, Mrs Jenny Smith, Mrs Niamh McDonald, Mrs Pauline Margerison and Mrs Barbara Mulligan as they move on to the next stage in their life and professional journeys. May they always be truly blessed.

**Leadership Team**

Principal .......................................................... Mrs Sue Veling
Assistant Principal ............................................. Mr Michael Mifsud
Religious Education Coordinator ......................... Mrs Carole Day
Early Stage 1 (Kinder) and Numeracy Coordinator ... Mrs Rebecca Kakovschke
Stage 1 & Literacy Coordinator Yrs 1 & 2 ............. Mrs Bernadette Curry
Stage 2 Co-ordinator (Years 3 & 4) ....................... Mr Michael Mifsud
Stage 3 Co-ordinator (Years 5 & 6) ....................... Miss Kirsty Reynolds

**2013 Grade/Class Teachers**

KD................................................................. Mrs Deanne Kuipers
KK............................................................... Mrs Rebecca Kakovschke and Mrs Anne Atkins
1B............................................................... Mrs Rebecca Blazek
1T............................................................... Mrs Joanne Thomas and Mrs Vicki Witton (Fridays)
2J............................................................... Mrs Ces Johnston and Mrs Carly Eekman (Fridays)
2L............................................................... Miss Sofia Lamartie
3G............................................................... Mrs Dolores Grima Starkey
3C............................................................... Miss Justine Colyer
4G............................................................... Ms Michele Glynn
4W............................................................... Mrs Jenni Walsh (Mon-Wed) and Mrs Dianne Khalifeh (Thurs/Fri)
5H............................................................... Mrs Jenny Hensen
5D............................................................... Mrs Carole Day and Mrs Dianne Khalifeh (Wednesdays)
6R............................................................... Miss Kirsty Reynolds
6S............................................................... Mrs Patricia Scott

**Learning Support Team**

Whilst every member of the Learning Support Team shares in the responsibility of working with class teachers to provide support to ALL children (K-6) they will have a particular focus in the following areas ::

Kindergarten ....................................................... Mrs Anne Atkins (Mon-Thurs)
Year 1 & Numeracy Specialist Teacher ............... Mrs Linda Flanagan (Mon-Fri)
Year 2 & Reading Recovery .............................. Mrs Bernadette Curry (Mon-Fri)
Year 3 & 4......................................................... Mr Michael Mifsud (Mon-Fri)
Year 5 & 6......................................................... Mrs Anne Maree McKeon (Tues/Wed/Fri)
Learning Technologies Support Teachers ........ Mrs Dolores Grima Starkey and Mr Michael Mifsud (Thurs)
Child and Family Counsellor ............................. Mrs Deborah Robinson (Friday)
K/1 Teachers’ Assistant ..................................... Ms Jade Proctor (Tues)
Yr 2 Teachers’ Assistant ................................... Mrs Anne Mathison (Tues-Fri)
Yr 3 Teachers’ Assistant ................................... Mrs Jody Robinson (Mon-Thurs)
Yrs 4-6 Teachers’ Assistant .............................. Mrs Lorraine Pruss (Mon-Thurs)

**Library and Learning Technologies**

Teacher/Librarian ............................................. Mrs Bernadette Curry (Mon-Tues)
Library Assistant and Literacy Project Support ...... Mrs Sue Masters (Thurs)
Library Assistant ............................................... Mrs Bridget Morgan (Thurs)
ICT Technical Support ....................................... Mr Blake Harper (Mon-Tues)
**Special Support Programs**

Music Program (K-6)……………………………… Mrs Elizabeth McGregor (Wed-Fri)
Japanese Program (K-6)…………………………… Mrs Kate Schafer (Wed-Fri)

**Ancillary Staff**

School Secretary ……………………………………… Mrs Julie Irvine (Mon-Fri)
Finance Secretary …………………………………… Mrs Bernadette Alexander (Mon-Thurs)
School Secretary …………………………………… Mrs Sarah Zarlenga (Thurs (odd weeks), every Fri)

**Support Staff**

Contract Cleaner ……………………………………… Mrs Samantha Carr
Grounds and Maintenance ………………………… Mr Matthew Sharp

**Parish Team (4735-1041)**

Parish Priest …………………………………………… Father Robert Anderson
Secretary …………………………………………… Mrs Chrissy Rannaste
Sacramental Co-ordinator …………………………… Mrs Kate Turner

**2014 Student Leaders**

All of Year 6 are important Student Leaders and will take up a range of leadership responsibilities in 2014. Assemblies, early childhood, welcoming team, Peer Support groups and so much more! We look forward to seeing their leadership skills blossom as the year goes on!

School Captains: ……………………………………… Erin Dargan Harry McDonald
Student Representative Council: ………………… Alanah Eisenhuth Max Prendergast
………..………………………………………………… Isabella Nardi Lucas Horne
………..………………………………………………… Keisha Chilmaid Joshua Patterson

House Colour Captains:

Clark (Gold): ………………………………………… Luke Mathison Madison Van Esveld
Bede (Blue): ………………………………………… Isaac John Felicity Mayer
Manning (Green): …………………………………… Tylor Hewson Antonea Winch
Clark (Red): ………………………………………… Brock Healey Laura Patterson

**2013 P & F Executive**

President …………………………………………… Kevin Houlihan
Vice President ……………………………………… James Tabor
Secretary …………………………………………… Kiery Pascoe
Treasurer …………………………………………… Katherine Budge
Fete and Fundraising Coordinators ………………… Matthew & Kylie Newton
Assistant Fundraising Coordinators ………………… Carly Eekman, Regina Hawkes, Kate Andrews

**Sports Uniform Days for 2014**

Students should wear summer school uniform on the first day of term 2014.

As agreed at the orientation morning, Kindergarten 2014 will wear their summer school uniform on the morning of Monday 3rd February for their first day all together at ‘big’ school. Children may wear either school uniform or casual clothes for their School Entry Assessments appointment.

We will begin the year with the following sports days. Parents will be notified of any changes as the year progresses:

Kinder Monday and Friday
Year 1 Wednesday and Friday
Year 2 Wednesday and Friday
Year 3 Tuesday and Friday
Year 4 Wednesday and Friday
Year 5 Tuesday and Thursday
Year 6 Thursday and Friday

**School Requirements for 2014**

Today your children received a list of class requirements for the new school year. Perhaps Santa or even grandparents might be able to help out with these! Many thanks for your co-operation in having your children well equipped for the new year.
Keeping our brains working over the holidays!
Whilst it is important that we all have a rest and refresh ourselves for a new school year we do encourage the children to keep learning. Lots of stories, reading, games, making and building, exploring and researching……and more! Children, why not join the Executive Director’s Reading Challenge and win yourself an IPOD (see further details below)! Maybe write a diary of your holidays to keep practising those all important writing and drawing skills! You can also keep developing your maths skills through everyday maths and counting, card and board games.

Yes, let’s all have a good break, but not from the joy of learning! And next year I encourage you to aim high in your learning with even greater excitement and energy than ever before!

Kind regards
Allan Jones
PRINCIPAL

Congratulations
Congratulations to the following children who have taken part in the Representative basketball trials. They have now qualified and are selected to play representative basketball for Penrith & Districts Basketball Association in 2014.

Tara Aitchison - Under 12 Women
Jack Collins - Under 14 Mens
Kenneth Mangan - Under 12 Mens

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMME

I am delighted to be returning to the role of Sacramental Co-ordinator for the parish of Our Lady of the Way, and I look forward to getting to know each of the families in our school community.

Our programme will continue from early in 2014 as a parish based family experience, meaning preparation for families will be co-ordinated by the Parish around weekend Masses. The following is a brief outline of the programme plan for 2014. If you have any concerns or queries, please do not hesitate to email me – sacraprog@olowpar.eftel.com.au

I wish you all a joy filled Christmas and holiday break. Kate Turner.

TERM 1 & 2
Preparation for and celebration of FIRST COMMUNION for children in Year 4 and above, who have already celebrated First Reconciliation.

TERM 3
Preparation for and celebration of CONFIRMATION for children in Year 5 and above who have already celebrated First Communion.

TERM 4
Preparation for and celebration of FIRST RECONCILIATION (Confession) for children in Year 3 and above, who have already been baptised.

Kate Turner
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S
SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

READ TO LEARN...
READ FOR FUN...
READ TO WIN

The Summer Reading Challenge is open to all students enrolled in Catholic schools in the Diocese of Parramatta.

Read 10 or more books during the summer holidays to go into the draw to win one of FOUR iPAD MINIS.

THE CATEGORIES ARE:
AGES 5-8  AGES 9+

Enter online via www.parra.catholic.edu.au

Students must record all the books they read on the online application form, and have them verified by a parent or guardian prior to submitting the form. See Terms & Conditions

Entries close Friday 7 February 2014
Dear Parents, Grandparents, Parishioners and Colleagues,

As I look back over my journey at Our Lady of the Way I do so with joy, satisfaction and awe - with deep gratitude, tremendous pride and great confidence in the future.

I look back with gratitude…..

I have been truly blessed to have the privilege and opportunity to work with such wonderful children. They are why we are here and why I am so passionate about my work! They have brought me great joy and satisfaction as I have watched them, learn and grow!

I have been blessed with three wonderful priests to work with…… Fr Geoff Dickinson, Fr Christopher Sharah and for most of my time here, Fr Robert Anderson, our current Parish Priest who has been such a great pastor, teacher, friend, confidante to me and faith leader and teacher for us all. I also give thanks for the support and encouragement of the Pastoral Council, the Parish staff and wider parish community.

Miss Marina Hardy, Mr Anthony McElhone and Mr Michael Mifsud, the Assistant Principals it has been my privilege to work with, have brought to their work such a strong focus on the children and tremendous skill as educators. Each of them has been such a great support to me professionally and personally.

I am truly grateful for the opportunity to learn with and from all the other excellent leaders, teachers and support staff I have worked with during my time here at OLOW. Our teachers work so hard, so skillfully and so willingly for the good of the children!

The office staff at OLOW have always been so dedicated to their work, with special thanks to our Office Administrator, Mrs Julie Irvine, who goes about her work with great energy, is so committed to supporting the children, staff and families and has smiled politely and responded positively to all of my weird and wonderful requests and ideas!!

I want to publicly thank those people beyond OLOW who have supported me – colleague principals, especially Mrs Sue Guilfoyle, Mrs Anne Hines and Mr Richard Blissenden, Catholic Education Office staff and educators from the various schools and universities we’ve worked in collaboration with.

I am so grateful to the parents, grandparents and families who have trusted, supported and challenged me. All you have done to build community here at OLOW and to support the children’s learning has motivated and encouraged me. We could not have achieved all that we have without your constant help and involvement!

Finally, I am grateful to my lovely wife Rhonda and our wonderful children, Kayla, Candice, Lyndall and Lachlan, for their unconditional love and support and for putting up with an ‘all too often absent or late’ Dad. I cannot thank you enough. All my love, always!

I look around with pride…..

At OLOW we have achieved so much together. The improvements to the buildings, grounds and gardens have been extraordinary! The advances in technology have been amazing! The development of the very best learning and teaching resources!
However, what I am most proud of is the developments in learning and teaching that have occurred over my time here at OLOW. Open learning and grade collaboration. Inquiry learning and investigations. Explicit teaching and deep engaged learning. Exciting developments and programs in sport, music and the creative arts. High quality learning and teaching in literacy, numeracy and Religious Education but also across all the Key Learning Areas.

Children I am so very proud of all that you have achieved in your learning, your willingness to ‘have a go’ and for the way you are so caring and encouraging towards each other!

I look forward with confidence……

I am confident that OLOW will go from strength to strength under the leadership of Mrs Sue Veling, Mr Michael Mifsud and indeed the whole staff team, with the support and encouragement of the Parish, parents and families.

Personally, I look forward with confidence to the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead! All that each of you has taught me will stand me in good stead!

One last challenge for you all!
Together we have been learning how to learn, think, choose and relate and, to be the best people we can be! I am going to leave you with one last challenge, a learning challenge!

That is, “To become even better at learning how to create……”

What does create mean?
1. To cause to exist; bring into being.
2. To give rise to; produce:
3. To produce through artistic or imaginative effort:

When we create we might design, make, compose, build, construct, imagine, contemplate what’s possible or bring together.

I wonder what YOU like to create……?

What things might we create?

| Paintings | Patterns | Harmony |
| Drawings | Solutions | Unity |
| Action scenes | Puzzles | Peace |
| Plays | Questions | Understanding |
| Music | Inventions | Connections |
| Dance | Experiments | Friendships |
| Movement | Hypotheses | Relationships |
| Poetry | New knowledge | Happiness |
| Drama | New ideas | Community |
| Stories | New ways | CHANGE! |

Children, you are the ones who are going to CREATE tomorrow!

A positive future……
A more just society……
A sustainable future……
A better world……

This is what Jesus modelled for us and this is what our loving God calls us to do!
This is ‘the way’ that Mary, Our Lady of the Way, leads us to!
THAT’S the learning challenge I want to leave you ALL with!
As Nelson Mandela once said:
"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Children, you are the ones who most inspire and amaze me!
You are why we are all here!
You are terrific! Clever! Generous! Caring! Inspirational! And, gorgeous!
Congratulations once again to you ALL on your many achievements, especially this year! And keep up the great learning!

I wish to thank you all for my beautiful gift box, the wonderful book you all created and the superb Photo Diary from the Parents and Friends Association and the children of Our Lady of the Way. These are gifts that I will treasure always and share with pride with others!

The origin of the word goodbye is “God be with ye”. So goodbye, thank you and best wishes!

May God be with you, today and always!

Allan Jones
17th December 2013

may Christ's peace and hope be with your family now and in the days ahead
may His love warm your hearts
may He give you a spirit of wisdom

www.christmas-new-year-wishes.com