Finding God in Ash Wednesday

Lent is a gift that the Church in her wisdom celebrates every year. It is a gift of time, a gift of contemplation, and a gift of quiet so that we may listen to the Word, who whispers to us to come back to the God who created us. It encourages us to turn away from the noise and over-indulged appetites so that we may understand the hunger that can be filled—with the grace of God—only by prayer, fasting, and giving to the poor.

So we go to our churches once a year to have crosses signed upon our faces. It is in this same manner that, when the Gospel is proclaimed, we take our right thumbs, trace three crosses, and pray: may the word of God be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart. The prayer of the whole Church, the Body of Christ, is that each year the sign of the cross penetrates a little deeper in our thinking and moves us a little closer to God.

As the children sang today may this prayer be our prayer.

‘And we’re ready for a change of heart
And we’re looking for a brand new start
And we’re making out a whole new plan
To change our lives we know we can
Turn back to God, turn back to God.’  Chorus written by Michael Mangan.

Dear Parents, Children and Friends,

I am writing this before heading off to be with our Year 6 children at camp and if the excitement around the school this morning is anything to go by it is going to be a wonderful camp. It’s an exciting week for all BCPS community members with various events taking place. The Shrove Tuesday breakfast was a great success with many families enjoying a pancake or two before school. Thanks to Mrs Simon and her team of helpers for organising and coordinating the breakfast.

Yesterday we celebrated the commencement of Lent with our Ash Wednesday mass that was held in the undercover area. Lent is a time that we prepare for Easter, a time for us to reflect on what we do well and a time to reflect on how we can make our world a better place. Our world can be our home, school, community, state, country or the wider world we live in. Let us challenge and encourage each other during the six week period of Lent to make a positive difference to the world we live in.
The Reconciliation Information evening is being held tonight at St. Andrew’s Church commencing at 6.30pm. Families with children receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation are expected to attend the information evening so they can enrol their child into the program. There are three Workshops being held over the following week; Tuesday 24 February St Andrew’s Parish Hall 6.30pm, Wednesday 25 February St Andrew’s Parish Hall 5.00pm and Brighton Catholic Primary School library at 6.30pm.

Tomorrow night the P&F will be holding our school’s annual ‘Meet and Greet’ evening commencing at 5.30pm and concluding at 7.30pm, all families are welcome. The evening is one of the highlights in the P&F calendar as it offers all families an opportunity to come together with friends and it provides the opportunity to meet new friends in a safe and friendly environment. Come along and join the fun.

Last week in the car park we had a few incidents where parents became a little irate towards each other in various incidents. I can only urge all families to take care and be as courteous as possible towards each other. Please be careful when reversing, opening doors and moving into traffic as these seem to cause the biggest concerns. Another hint is to allow yourself time and problems appear to arise when we are in a rush. Maybe this could become one of our Lenten promises, to become more patient and courteous in the car park.

We had a visit from the Wanneroo City Council acknowledging our difficulties with parking around our school. Please remember courtesy needs to be extended to the service agencies near our school especially the Fire Department. It has been brought to our attention parents are parking in front of the fire station driveway stopping the fire engines attending emergencies. It is extremely necessary to keep this area clear at all times. There is no parking on any footpath whatsoever. The Ranger will be very visible over the next two months.

Have a great week and I look forward to seeing you tomorrow night at the Meet and Greet evening.

Take care and God bless,

James Danaher

CAMP AUSTRALIA

Camp Australia are offering full day care (7.00am – 6.00pm) for the Pupil Free Day on Tuesday 3 March, however a minimum of 18 student bookings are needed before the day can go ahead. Please find flyer at the end of the newsletter with all required information for booking the day.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL

Below is the process for notifying our school if your child is not at school.

Child away from school
- If your child is not coming to school please email admin@brightoncps.wa.edu.au prior to 9am.
- If you are unable to email, can you please call the school absentee line on 9562 9515. A written note is required upon your child’s return.
- If you are unable to do either of these, please send a signed note with your child when they return to school.

Child away from school for an extended time (eg Family Holiday)
- If your child is not at school for an extended time, please fill in the Absentee form available from the school office or provide an email or written note to Admin.

Child arriving late to school
- If your child is arriving late, i.e. after 8.35am, can you please fill out the Student Attendance Book in the front office before sending your child to class. A written note is still required if a parent/guardian has not signed the student in.

Child leaving school early
- If your child is leaving school before 2.45pm can you please sign them out through the Student Attendance Book in the office.
**Child leaving school and returning again before the end of the day**

- If your child is leaving for an appointment and then returning to school, please sign them OUT and then back IN through the Student Attendance book at the front office.

**FINANCE NEWS**

2015 School fee statements have been sent to all families in the school. There has been an error with families with Kindergarten siblings and thus the text message was sent out yesterday. Amended school fee statements have been sent out to the respective families. Thank you to all families who have started their direct debits for 2015. Any family who was on direct debit in 2014 and have not restarted their direct debit for 2015 please see me ASAP to restart payments, as school fees need to be finalised by November 2015. All families that are on regular payments (direct debits) please ignore the school fee statement sent to you.

There are still families who have not updated their Health Care Card, could you please do so ASAP in order to obtain the tuition fee discount.

If you are experiencing financial difficulty, please see me or contact me on 9562 9504 or email bastian.geneve@cathednet.wa.edu.au

Thanking you, Mrs Geneve Bastian

**AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES (YEARS 3-6)**

After school activities are all underway and thanks again to the parents who have volunteered their time to help. Children need to be dressed in appropriate clothing and footwear. Students must be picked up promptly at 3.50pm. Siblings who are not participating in an afterschool activity must be picked up at the normal school time.

**LIBRARY NEWS**

The Year fives were fantastic in Library this week. They looked at lots of books on the shelves and then chose which books they wanted without any fuss.

Our Library days are listed below –

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Please remember all students require a BCPS Library bag to borrow a book. They can be bought at the front office for $5.00
P&F NEWS
The P & F wish to advise that Tea, Coffee, Juice & Water will be available (gold coin donation) from 8.20am-8.40am & again for 20 minutes after the conclusion of assembly for those who would like to stay back. This is only on Assembly mornings the dates for First Term are February 27th, March 13th & March 27th.

SCHOOL UNIFORM SHOP
The uniform shop will be open Tuesday afternoons from 2.00pm to 3.00pm and Friday mornings 8.00am to 8.30am. PRE-ORDERS ARE ESSENTIAL as we only carry limited stock, for a full uniform fitting an appointment is essential.

** Please note: If you are unable to attend at these times, call into the office to pick up a uniform order form. Please fill in your requirements along with payment and the order will be filled on the next uniform opening day. We can only accept cash or cheque – the school does not have facilities at all for Eftpos/credit card payments.

JOHN BUTLER DENTAL THERAPY CENTRE
Our new school dental centre is John Butler Dental Therapy Centre. Their details are 2 Halesworth Parade, Butler. Ph: 08 9562 5312 email johnbutlerdtc@dental.health.wa.gov.au

It is of utmost importance that the centre has your current contact and mailing details.

WARNING WARNING WARNING - ALLERGY ALERT
We have several children in the school with potentially fatal allergies to NUTS. Parents are reminded that the school is a NUT FREE ZONE. The children are therefore asked NOT to bring sandwiches or other food made with peanut paste, Nutella or any other nut product. Even the smell of peanuts is sufficient to trigger an allergic reaction in one case.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

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<td>Thursday 19 February</td>
<td>Reconciliation Parent Information Evening</td>
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<td>6.30pm St Andrew’s Church</td>
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<td>Friday 20 February</td>
<td>Year 2 Mass (8.45am)</td>
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<td>P&amp;F Meet &amp; Greet 5.30pm – 7.30pm</td>
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<td>Saturday 21 February/Sunday 22 February</td>
<td>Commitment Masses</td>
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<td>Sat 6.00pm/Sun 9.00am/5.30pm</td>
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<td>Tuesday 24 February</td>
<td>Reconciliation Workshop</td>
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<td>St Andrews Parish Hall 6.30pm</td>
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<td>Wednesday 25 February</td>
<td>Reconciliation Workshop</td>
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<td>St Andrews Parish Hall 5.00pm</td>
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<td>Thursday 26 February</td>
<td>Reconciliation Workshop</td>
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<td>Brighton CPS Library 6.30pm</td>
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<td>Friday 27 February</td>
<td>Year 4 Assembly (8.45am)</td>
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<td>Monday 2 March</td>
<td>Labour Day (Public Holiday)</td>
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<td>Tuesday 3 March</td>
<td>Staff Profession Development Day</td>
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<td>No School for Students</td>
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<td>Friday 6 March</td>
<td>Year 1 Liturgy</td>
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<td>Year 3 excursion to Kings Park</td>
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<td>P&amp;F cake stall</td>
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BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Congratulations to the following students who will be celebrating their birthday over the next two weeks:
We wish you all a fantastic day!

ST ANDREW’S PARISH, CLARKSON (Cnr Belleville Gardens & Victorsen Parade)
Parish Priest:    Father Robert Carrillo   9407 7512
Assistant Priest:    Father Rainier Fernandez
Mass Times:    Saturday  6.00pm
                Sunday    7.30am/9.00am/5.30pm

IRENE McCORMACK CATHOLIC COLLEGE
OPEN DAY
Tuesday, 24th March 2015
Guided Tours at 9.00am & 1.30pm.
An excellent opportunity for prospective parents and students to experience the College during a school day.
Bookings essential.
To book contact 9562 2400 or admin@imcc.wa.edu.au

FUTURE ENROLMENTS
The College will commence Enrolment Interviews for Year 7 2017 in March.
There are a few places still available for Year 7 2016.

2016 YEAR 7 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP
Registration for the 2016 Year 7 Academic Scholarship Examination is now open.
Applications close 15th April 2015.
Scholarship Examination date Saturday, 9th May 2015.
For further information email admin@imcc.wa.edu.au.
Pupil Free Day!

There is a Pupil Free Day coming up at Brighton Catholic Primary on 3rd March 2015 and Camp Australia will be offering a pupil free day care for the children:

**Date:** 3rd March 2015  
**Time:** 7:00am - 6:00pm

To book your child in the fun Pupil Free Day Care program please go online through [www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.com.au) or call the Customer Service on 1300 105 343.

Please ensure you book in before Monday 23rd February.

Register for an account online today!  
Are you wondering whether or not to put up your hand to join the P&F Association/Parent Group? Wondering what the benefit to your child might be?

Significant research over the past 40 years shows clearly and consistently that if you are involved/engaged in your child’s education, that the benefits will include:

- Improved school readiness
- Higher academic achievement
- Higher graduation rates
- Greater ability for your child to self-regulate their behaviour
- Better social skills
- Enhanced student wellbeing
- More consistent completion of homework
- Better transitions to high school and beyond
- More realistic planning for the future
- Better attitude towards school
- Better attendance
- Higher retention rates

Hopefully you will agree that even one of these outcomes is worthwhile attending a meeting for. Come along and help to build a positive, vibrant community at your school and watch your child reap the benefits!