NEWSLETTER ISSUE #1
FEBRUARY 3RD 2017

PUNCTUALITY IS IMPORTANT
8:20 School gates open
8:45 Students in class
3:30 dismissal
No school for Prep on
Wednesdays in February.
PUNCTUALITY IS IMPORTANT

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Feb 9th Family Twilight
Evening
Feb 13-15th Yr 5/6 Camp
Feb 21st 9:00am Passion
parent helpers meeting.
6:00pm Prep Dinner
7:00pm Prep 1/2 Literacy Night
Feb 28th Parent Teacher
Interviews
March 1st Ash Wednesday
March 10th School Athletics
March 28th Passion 2pm
March 31st End of term

EASTER 14-17 APRIL
TERM 2
Begins Tuesday 18th April

School Prayer
God, our Father, as members of
the Parish Community of
St Gerard’s we praise you for
your love.
May we grow stronger in faith
and hope, and may our love for
each other, become deeper in our
daily lives.
Grant this through your Son, and
our brother, Jesus Christ.
AMEN

REFLECTION
Last Sundays Gospel was the Sermon on the Mount where Jesus
teaches about a set of Blessings called the Beatitudes. The
Beatitudes are a framework for Christian living and excellent
guidelines for establishing ways of being and doing in the

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.
Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for
righteousness,
for they will be filled.
Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.
Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted
because of righteousness, for theirs is the
kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are you when people insult
you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of
evil against you because of me.

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your
reward in heaven, for in the same way they
persecuted the prophets who were before
you”.

Uniform Shop
In the Parish Hall each Monday
8.30am—10.00am
Welcome back for another year. A particular welcome to our new families and new prep students. Please give new families a smile and welcome them to our school.

Congratulations to the students and staff for beginning the year in such a productive way, with all your classrooms buzzing with learning. In order to set the scene, the desired culture and expectations for the year the focus this week has been on respect and safety in each class. The students have been reflecting and discussing about how it feels to be in a space that you feel respected, valued and encouraged. This will set the scene for a great year.

With the excitement of the new year, we also have deep sadness for the loss of our beloved friend Joe Torelli and deep sadness and empathy for his wife Carly, daughters Liana, Alisha and Ella and his niece Kiara, sister Kathy and parents Pina and Frank and Nonna. In all the sadness and shock, I have been very impressed and moved by the positive conversations I have had with the girls about returning to school. We will take it one day at a time and we all have a role to play as we journey with the family from now on.

There is opportunity to practically support the family through “go fund me”, details are below.

God Our Father you have called Joe, we pray that you give comfort to his family, grant us the wisdom to support them and as give thanks and remembrance for the wonderful man he was.

Have a great year,

Chris O’Connell

https://www.gofundme.com/helping-joe-torellis-family
Whole School Mass
Today we gathered at our Beginning of the School Year celebration of the Eucharist as a part of a school community and as members of the Body of Christ – the church. We gave thanks to God for our parish and school community and asked God to guide us in the year ahead to live as people of peace.

Whole School Masses:
Wednesday, 1st March: Ash Wednesday at 12:00 (Day of Fast and Abstinence)

Level Masses:
Years 1/2: Thursday, 16th Feb at 9:15
Years 3/4: Thursday, 16th March at 9:15
Prep and Years 5/6: Thursday, 23rd March at 9:15

Sacramental Dates for 2017
Confirmation: (Grade 6)
Confirmation information Night: Thursday 27th April
Confirmation: Wednesday 19th July at 7pm
Reconciliation: (Grade 3)
First Reconciliation Information Night: Tuesday 2nd May
Reconciliation: Wednesday 27th June at 10:15
First Communion: (Grade 4)
First Communion Information Night: Tuesday 27th June
First Communion: Sunday 20th August, 2pm

The Passion
During the Passion we journey with Jesus towards the cross and prepare to welcome him into our presence. Please mark this significant event into your diaries and arrange to have some time off work if needs be to see The Passion. All children will participate in an event that tells the story of Jesus Christ’s arrest, trial and suffering. The story begins with Palm Sunday, when Jesus entered Jerusalem to the applause of the crowds and ends with Jesus dying on the cross. The Passion will take place on Tuesday 28th March at 2pm, followed by Hot Cross Buns served to parents.

The Passion: Parent helpers needed:
We are looking for a group of parent helpers that can help coordinate The Passion. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday 21st February at 9am in the hall.

Palm leaves needed:
If you have some palm leaves that can be used for props for The Passion, please bring them to Mrs Stack on Monday 27th March.

Seasons - A Program for Grief and Loss
Seasons is a peer support program for children and young people who are experiencing grief and loss in their lives. This loss may be the result of a death, separation or divorce. This valuable program will become available in term 2. If you have any questions about the program, please don’t hesitate to speak to Mrs Stack.

St Patrick’s Day Mass
On Friday, 17th March, 10 children from Year 6 will be attending Mass to celebrate St Patrick’s Day at St Patrick’s Cathedral in East Melbourne to represent our school. After Mass, we will walk to the Treasury Gardens to have lunch followed by a concert in the park. Own Rosary beads if they have them. Otherwise, Rosary beads will be provided.
**Project Compassion**
Caritas Australia’s annual Lenten fundraising and awareness-raising appeal is an extraordinary, ongoing demonstration of the faith, love and generosity of the Catholic congregation and caring supporters throughout Australia to help end poverty, promote justice and uphold dignity. Project Compassion Boxes will be distributed to each class during Ash Wednesday Mass. Each class will have a target amount that they would like to raise during lent. Regular updates, by the Social Justice Leadership Team, with the amount raised so far will be announced at the school assembly.

**Rosary**
Each Tuesday we have a group that comes together to pray the rosary in the Church at first lunch, led by Jenny Gelderbloem from the Parish. Children are welcome to attend and encouraged to bring their own Rosary beads if they have them. Otherwise, Rosary beads will be provided.

**Meditation**
Thank you to everyone that has remembered that we begin each day with meditation. If you arrive late to school and the meditation bell has already gone, you need to wait in the office area until meditation time is finished.

**Altar boy training**
Altar boy training will resume on Thursday 16th February. After that the boys will be trained at *St Gerard’s Church* each Thursday from **5.30-6.30pm** by Frederick Maroun and supervised by Ron Maroun. If your son is interested in becoming an altar sever, please contact Mrs Stack.

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**NAZARETH COLLEGE**

Nazareth will be having a number of OPEN Mornings, please register your attendance with the College Receptionist on 9795 8100.

Thursday 9th, Wednesday 15th, Friday 24th FEBRUARY 9.00am – 10.30am
Monday 6th and Wednesday 22nd MARCH 9.00am – 10.30am

**OPEN Day** 11.30- 1.00pm Sunday 12th FEBRUARY

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**SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION**

**Newsletter and Communication for New Families**
At St Gerard’s School we send the weekly Newsletter via email or via the a Phone App called TIQBIZ. This is the preferred method of communication with you. If you would like more information on how to apply TIQBIZ to your phone, please come into the Office and we will help you. If you would prefer to receive the Newsletter via email, please inform the School Office as soon as possible and I will add you to the list.

**CSEF— Camps, Sports, Excursions Funds**
Please ensure that you return your form that was sent home as soon as possible to the office. To be eligible you must hold a current Health Care or Concession card. A payment of $125 for primary school students will be paid directly to the school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the school.

**Medication**
Please advise the school in writing if your child requires medication during the day at school. Medication should not be in the child’s school bag. St Gerard’s Administration will take care of the Administering of Medication.