

NEWSLETTER

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Today brings to a conclusion Term 3.

It has been a term with many and varied learning opportunities for our students to encounter Christ daily in their interactions and to grow in knowledge and faith.

At its core the school experience enables students to learn and develop in a social environment where they can build, practice and sustain relationships. Through these relationships they experience Christ revealed often in the daily joys, lessons and missteps of life.

This year our Church is focused on the theme of "mercy". We are called to model God's mercy as a lived virtue towards others. This Mercy we are told in scripture is the first work of God. In a world that is often hard and callous God's mercy challenges us to be tender hearted, loving and compassionate.

Wishing all families a restful and safe term break in readiness for the final term of 2016.

Until next time, ARcaato Sergio Rosato Principal

Kindergarten Parish Mass

On Wednesday of Week 10 Kindergarten attended our Parish Mass. The theme of our Mass was 'We Belong to the Parish Community'.

The children presented Father Paul with a gift of artwork to hang in the church. All children participated beautifully throughout Mass through song, the Offertory Procession and by decorating the altar with posters.

Thank you to all the parents who joined us for this special Mass. **Deborah Mitchell, on behalf of the Kindergarten Team**





Parish Confirmation

We congratulate each of the students and their families who recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation as part of the St Thomas Aquinas Parish.

The Sacramental Mass, concelebrated by Father Chris De Souza and Father Paul Slyney, was a beautiful and moving occasion. We continue to pray for these children as they experience the grace of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Uniform Change Over

Parents are reminded that students are to wear **Summer Uniform** when school resumes for **Term 4**. CEDP Sports Jumpers and Hoodies may <u>only</u> be worn with sports uniform. For further details please refer to the Parent Handbook located on the school website.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – Pupil Free Monday 10 October (1st Day of Term 4)

The focus for this professional development day will be on Religious Education. **Students will commence Term 4 on Tuesday 11 October.**

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a: 168 Hawkesbury Rd Springwood 2777 | p: 02 4754 2554 | f: 02 4754 3562 www.stthomas.parra.catholic.edu.au | Parish Priest: Father Paul Slyney



Grandparents' Day 2016

On Wednesday, 14 September, we hosted our Annual Grandparents Day at the school. The day commenced with a special concert featuring our junior and senior choirs and band.

Following the concert our families were invited into the classrooms by students to see some of the wonderful learning on display. Each child also presented their grandparents with special prayer cards featuring the Year of Mercy. Following the class visits children, grandparents and families enjoyed a picnic lunch together which also included a cake stall run by our Year 6 students.



The author Mary Pipher, who has written extensively on the topic of grandparents said:

"We crave a greater sense of connection in our families, and in our culture. But we put all our 3-year-olds in one place, all our 14-year-olds in another place, and all our 80-year-olds in yet another place. When we do this, we miss out. Each age group has its own wisdom, its own 'specialness' to share."

What Mary Pipher was alluding to I believe, is that relationships across generations make us feel connected and whole. They make us feel connected, not only to each other, but to something bigger – to the cycle of life, to the past and to the future.

In our modern world, we need this sense of connection more than ever. It helps us understand where we've come from, who we are, where we're going, and why we're going there. What young people need most are the essentials that grandparents provide in abundance their knowledge, unconditional love, patience and balanced wisdom.





We also know that this relationship is reciprocal. Grandchildren love and admire their grandparents with a sense of appreciation and love that is unconditional. They love their nans and pops simply for who they are. It is also important that we appreciate the many grandparents in our society who are the primary carers for their grandchildren. These grandparents are acting purely out of love and devotion for their grandchildren.

We give collective thanks for the treasures that are our grandparents. We thank them for giving their unconditional love, their kindness, their patience, their humour, their wisdom and for their presence in the life of their grandchildren. As society changes the role of grandparents changes; but some things about grandparents are constant and timeless. They help grandchildren better understand who they are by transmitting family values, teaching about family traditions and by telling stories about their parent's childhood.

Grandparents also play a pivotal role in imparting wisdom and common sense. They are equipped to do this because they have lived longer, have had greater experience, and have noticed the cycles and patterns of life. In this way grandparents can give us perspective on life. Grandparents are unique and irreplaceable.





Interschool Chess Competition

Four teams were entered in the New South Wales Primary Schools Chess Competition, with the teams playing every Friday afternoon after school in Term 2 and the first few weeks of Term 3. The students played with enthusiasm and were great ambassadors for our school.

The **A Team finished 3rd** in their division and consisted of Brady Leehy, Julian Sypka, Thomas Rizzuti, Oliver Rizzuti and Adam Sypka. **The B Team finished 5th** in their division and consisted of Harry Gilchrist, Patrick Moore, Samuel Turner and William Rogers. **The C Team finished 6th** in their division and consisted of Nyah Hutchings, Siobhan Rafter, Billie Papasotiriou and Ellen Glasson. **The D Team finished 6th** in their division and consisted of Ronan Hurley, Mark D'Alessio, Emilia Gosling, Lachlan Waters, Lachlan Dempsey, William Hurley, Lachlan Golby and Will Peake.

Well done to all players! Miss Blanche Hortense

Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students, who received Merit Awards at our last two week's School Assemblies. Well done on your efforts everyone – keep up the good work!

Week 9

Issabella Ballard Willow Barker Eliza Barr Madeline Blacklock Jacob Burnett Enrique Caraballo Ferris Carey Reid Clarke Luke Clunes Rebecca Collis Summer Daly William Dean

Week 10

Cameron Barr Annalise Blattman Cisco Borbely Elysia Burchall Lucas Claudino Sophie Clink Mitchell Crouch Joshua Croucher Joshua Curtis Cem Damarguc Shaelee Davies Patrick Dawson Claire Debien Britney Dorman Grace Fetherston Fleanor Fortunat

Alison Edwards Noah Edwards Summer Faulkner Ezra Forsyth Harry Ghata Cooper Golby Abbey Gomez Payton Henson Molly Jones Prudence Lia Veronica Lloyd-Williams Maxwell Loyric

Alex Freer Matilda Gauci Blake Gough Sasha Grahovac Emily Hall Mathew Hall Eva Hampshire Harry Hicks Alexis Hodge Willow Hookings Sienna Hughes Elise Hurley Eve Hurley Erin Hutchinson William Jones Summer Mamo Kate McIlveen Vincent McLaren Gela Moss Issac Moss Thomas Neil Patrick Payens Tobie Payens Florencia Perez-Eaton Anneke Prineas Benjamin Prior Preston Pyle

Sophie Kerrison Joseph Kitching Taj Leathers Brady Leehy Prudence Lia Ronan Loughton Maddison Machon Ivan Mayorchak Brydan McLeod David McMaster Samuel Moore Taya Moore Billie Papasotiriou Amelia Peake Kaelan Penney Jack Reynolds River Rodemark Larraine Santos Hugo Strickland Elizabeth Tabor Gabriel Valle Darcy Weston Billy Wright Angus Young Sophie Young

Henry Re

Abigail Power Trinity Power Charlotte Priest Henry Rutkowski Lucas Sawyer Jamie Sharp Amelia Synnott Will Ticehurst Nathan Treble Ryan Trent Kristof Trinajstic Harry Watson Annabelle Webster Lola Whitsun-Jones Zachary Zalan-Pipe

Touch Football

St Thomas Aquinas Primary School participated in the Stage 2 Touch Football Gala Day at the St Marys Kingsway fields on Friday 16 September. Four school teams were selected to enter the gala day, with each team playing 6 games. All students and teams showed great skill and sportsmanship on the day.

Our school achieved some terrific results: Year 4 Girls 1st Place (Undefeated), Year 3 Girls 1st Place (Undefeated), Year 4 Boys 2nd Place (Undefeated), and the Year 3 Boys 3rd Place. Thank you to Ms MacKenzie for coaching and to Josh and Tom Williamson for assisting with refereeing on the day. *Mr Chenoweth*

Term Three School Fees

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Thank you to all the families who have finalised the Term Three School Fees or who are currently on track to paying off the school fees in instalments.

The fees were due by 22 August and there are still several families who have not finalised the fees. The Catholic Education Office is sending the first reminder letters this week. Arrangements made during the year with me where families are on track to paying off the fees are still valid.

If you are having difficulties paying the school fees please contact me to organise a formal payment arrangement plan or to discuss the options available. Failure to do so may result in your account being forwarded to the School Fees Liaison Unit at the Catholic Education Office, Diocese of Parramatta. **Deborah Lawrence, School Finance Secretary**





- Good school attendance affects a child's academic achievement and their overall wellbeing.
- There is No safe threshold of absence from school.
- Research shows clearly that attendance patterns are established early in a child's schooling.
- A child's Year 1 attendance is often a predictor of future attendance patterns.
- The effects of unwarranted school absenteeism accumulate over time and affect children's development now and into the future.

We all need to work together to ensure that students are at school (barring illness) every day - *Every Day Counts*.



COMMUNITY NOTICES

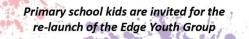
SPRINGWOOD SWIMMING CLUB is a family friendly local club that caters for swimmers of all ages and abilities. Race nights are held at 6.45pm every Thursday in summer, and fortnightly in winter at Springwood Aquatic Centre. 25m events are included every race night, and less confident swimmers can use flotation devices. Registrations now open for 2016/2017. New members are invited to come along to TWO FREE trial club nights. Junior Dolphins (swimmers 7 and under) register FREE. Club BBQ available at every race night. Registration Fees for are \$95* per swimmer and \$20 non-swimmer



for year round swimming. For more information or to register visit www.springwoodswimmingclub.com.au or e-mail info@springwoodswimmingclub.com.au * Each U18 swimmer or family is required to register either one adult swimmer or non-swimmer.

St Finbars Church Glenbrook Youth activities for Primary School aged Children

The main aim of the Edge group is to help young people form some friendships which will encourage them to come to Mass and so they feel comfortable joining in with high school youth group when the time comes. They'll get a chance to participate in different aspects of the Mass if they'd like and become active members of the community from an early age. See flyer below. The St Finbar Youth Team



THE EDGE **RE-LAUNCH!**

Glenbrook's first-ever COLOUR RUN

Sunday 2nd October 5pm, before the Youth Mass at 6pm, free sausage sizzle at 7pm.

Come and welcome our new Youth Leaders: **Kara and Victoria**

Bring an old shirt to wear over your clothes it might get a bit messy!!!

FAMILY BUSH DAY

Sunday 16 October, 10am – 2pm Mid-Mountains Community Centre, New Street, Lawson (behind the shops)

Blue Mountains City Council is holding this fun day for the whole family with lots to see and do - for all ages! The day will include activities such as Taronga Zoomobile, Citizen Science, Lots of Frogs! All About Birds, Drawing and Colouring Nature Workshops for all ages and a Guided Family Bush Walk with an educational educator. Cost: \$2 for individuals, \$5 for families.

Further details available at www.bluemountains.org.au

ALL WELCOME!

Jackeroo Ranch School Holiday Horse Riding Camps

Located at Bingletree Station in the beautiful Turon Valley (in the Bathurst area) Jackeroo Ranch (established 56 years) is running their popular spring school holiday horse riding camps. 1st Week: Saturday 24 September – Saturday 1 October, 2016; 2nd Week: Saturday 1 October – Sunday 9 October, 2016. Shorter stays are possible if camps are not fully booked.

These camps are for 'horse mad' children aged 6 to 16 years. Five to six hours per day are devoted to horse activities including a one hour lesson and three hours trail riding through the beautiful Turon Valley - with tuition still being given. As well, campers are taught grooming, saddling, haltering, catching a horse, safety aspects and many other facets of horsemanship. Previous experience is not necessary as beginners to advanced riders are catered for. We specialise in teaching nervous riders and developing their confidence.

Other activities include gold panning, cattle feeding/checking, cattle mustering, camp fires and native wildlife spotting. (The property abounds with kangaroos, wallabies, wombats, wonderful bird life as well as being a working cattle farm and Quarter Horse Stud. There are Poll Hereford calves and Quarter Horse foals now being born.) This is not just a camp - it's a wonderful farm experience your child will treasure forever.

Enquiries phone Mrs Pattie Hudson on 6337 7173 (nights are best). Further information at www.jackerooranch.com.au

Scorchers Basketball Holiday Clinic

Monday 26th and Tuesday 27th September, 2016, 9am to 3pm. \$50.00 for two days or \$30.00 for one day. To register please contact Springwood & Districts Basketball Association on 02 4739 8999 or Email: scorchers1@bigpond.com.

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Penrith Observatory School Holiday Activities

Hands-on Workshop - ROCKETS: Thursday 29 September 10 am - 12pm

Lots of fun for kids of all ages. Make and launch your own paper rocket and model rockets being launched. Program includes a short presentation, a 3D astronomy movie and **SAFE** and viewing of the sun through our telescopes (weather permitting). Cost \$15

Hands-on Workshop – ROCKETS: Thursday 6 October, 10 am – 12 pm

Lots of fun for kids of all ages. Make and launch your own paper rocket and model rockets being launched. Program includes a short presentation, a 3D astronomy movie and **SAFE** and viewing of the sun through our telescopes (weather permitting). Cost \$15

Astronomy Night - GRAVITY (AND WONDER); AT PENRITH OBSERVATORY: Saturday 8 October, 7pm - 9pm

Have you ever wondered about gravity? What is this invisible force that stops us from flying off into space as our planet rotates? How does the Moon stay in orbit around Earth? Why is the gravity of a black hole so strong? Join us for answers to these questions and more in our special *Gravity (and Wonder)* event in association with the Penrith Regional Gallery & The Lewers Bequest. The evening will include a presentation, a 3D astronomy movie, a tour of the dome area and an opportunity to view the night sky through the observatory's telescopes.

Cost for Public Astronomy Programs: \$18.00 Adult; \$12.00 Child/Concession; \$50.00 Family (2 adults + 2 children); Children under 3 years of age free. \$15.00 per person for hands-on workshops. **As always, bookings are essential.** <u>http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/observatorypenrith/penrith_observatory/whatson</u>

KIDS CAN ACT Drama Studio Holiday Workshops for Kids of All Ages Springwood Court, 133 Macquarie Road, Springwood (next to Domino's)

One Super Duper Crazy Night – Tuesday 27 September, **9.30am – 2.30pm:** When a mysterious spaceship comes crashing in to Dream Land, everyone goes to investigate it. An old, fat knight emerges and starts attacking them! Who is this so-called knight? It seems like he's missing a few marbles ... The children will make their own knights helmets and swords, wizard's hats or princess hats and wands to take home.

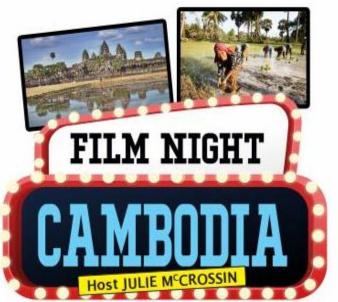
Outside the Box – Act Make & Paint – 29 & 30 September, 9.30am – 2.30pm: Get creative! Ignite your mind! Look inside and see what you can find. In this integrated craft and performance workshop the children have to think outside the box. They will explore what their own special talents that make them special and unique. Over the two days the children will paint and decorate their own large box that is a symbol of themselves. The second day will culminate with a performance based on their discovery, for their special audience.

The Day I Fell into a Crazy Story Book ... and Survived - Wednesday 5 October, 9.30am - 2.30pm: Have you ever fallen into a storybook: Well, if you have, just make sure it isn't this crazy Fairy Tale. Find out what happens when a boy falls into a Fairy Tale. He finds himself being yelled at by a girl saying, "How dare you be on this page?!" and says she is Goldilocks. After contending with her, a very angry wicked stepmother, and a disappointed Cinderella, all he wants to do is find his way out. Can he escape the book and make everything happily ever after again?

Puppetry No. 6 – Shadow Puppets – Thursday 6 October, 9.00am – 1.30pm: Make your own shadow puppets and watch them come to life! What sort of characters will you create? In this integrated craft and performance workshop, the children will discover techniques on how to breathe personality into their cartoon creations. They also take home a puppet theatre to make!

One Crazy Night (Ages 9-15 years) – Thursday 6 October, 2.00pm – 6.30pm: In this Workshop, we will look at some unusual characters who are trapped together in a petrol station shop during a storm. Once we have established some traits and the personality of each, we will then create a scene with all of them. The students will explore characters such as a 'Protective Mother', a 'Very Strict Teacher', a 'Pregnant Woman', a 'Punk', a 'Cool Macho Dude', a 'Grumpy Boss' and a 'Shop Assistant'.

Further information at <u>www.kidscanact.com.au</u> or phone 0414 475 158.



Saturday 22nd October 7.30 PM Sassafras Room, Springwood Sports Club, Macquarie Rd., Springwood

Important Khmer Documentary on Cambodia; "I am Chutt Vutty" then Q and A session with special guest Julie McCrossin, distinguished journalist and presenter. Panel of local Australians, with extensive experience of Cambodia over 10 years.

This outstanding presentation will support The Bush School, Siem Reap, Cambodia and access to water in remote villages. Topics will include social justice, land rights, forest protection, and education, as Cambodia emerges from a troubled recent history.

Cost: \$20 per person, \$40 per family Bookings: strongly recommended so as not to miss out: Phone Doug on 4701 5459 or 0403 303943 Text or call Maryanne on 0417046434 or Purchase tickets online by opening in browser address bar http://tinyurl.com/zht987b See also http://bushschoolcambodia.com



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⅔GIRLS in MOTION

Dear parents and caregivers

All girls in Years 5 and 6 are invited to participate in our "Girls in Motion" running program, to be held at St Thomas Aquinas Primary School.

It is a fun, inclusive, non-competitive running program, designed to inspire and motivate girls to become and stay active as they enter adolescence.

The program is centred on the girls participating in 'fun' running based games. The girls will learn about good running technique, play exciting games, and develop confidence in their bodies' ability to move and be strong, fit and healthy.

PROGRAM DETAILS:

Program runs for 9 weeks during term 4 2016, on Friday afternoon, 3.20 to 4.45 pm, at school. FULL SUPERVISION IS PROVIDED.



Commences Friday ^{14th} October, finishes Friday 9th December.

COST is \$125 per student.

All coaching provided by Lyndal Maloney, from Serotonin Running. Lyndal is a fully accredited Running Coach with Athletics Australia, an accredited teacher with BOSTES, and has a current working with children check.

For more details and an application form, please contact Lyndal on

0428 003324 or email lyndal@serotoninrunning.com.au

www.serotoninrunning.com.au

Halla S

Italian Forum – Year 3 Pasta Day 2016

This week, on Wednesday 21 September, we held our annual Pasta Day for the children in Year 3. This day is scheduled as part of our Italian program. Monique Fitzgerald is a parent at the school, and she was also a contestant on this year's season of 'My Kitchen Rules'. Monique showed the children how to make pasta and talked to them about pasta and

cooking, and via Facetime we were also able to speak to the two Italians from the show, Luciano and Martino. The children thoroughly enjoyed our guests, the demonstration, the Italian speaking and the pasta they were able to eat afterwards, prepared by four of our wonderful Year 3 parents.

A huge thank you to Monique, Luciano and Martino, as well as Jennie Payens, Melanie Brown, Melanie Barry and Lyndal Maloney for preparing the pasta for the children. **Jenni Wurf, Teacher of Italian**













FOR YOUR INFORMATION St Columba's Catholic College Sport





In the last 2 years sport at St Columba's has undergone wonderful improvements that have enabled many more of our students to move to representative levels (pre 2015 - 650 students per year and post 2015 - over 1000 students per year). In addition, our students have had professional coaching from GWS Giants, WS Wanderers, Netball NSW and the RFS where students have worked to become trained cadets to protect our mountains community. We are extremely proud of the increased opportunity and how sport is thriving at our college. **Mr Greg Malone, Head of PDHPE and Sport**









Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse

The Diocese of Parramatta is required to appear before the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, Case Study 44. This public hearing is expected to begin on Monday 12 September, 2016. For more information please refer to the Royal Commission website <u>www.childabuseroyalcommission.gov.au/publichearings/case-studies</u>

For anyone needing information and support please contact the Diocese of Parramatta information line on (02) 8838 3470. Operational from 03/09/2016 until 07/10/2016, Mon to Fri 7am-10pm, Sat and Sun 9am-5pm.

The Child Protection Information Line 1300 661 015 is available for families who would like more information about protocols or support services in Catholic schools run by the Diocese of Parramatta.

Concerns or allegations about any criminal offence should be reported to NSW Police on 131 444.

The Diocese of Parramatta is committed to continuously reviewing and improving its child protection policies and procedures. For more information please visit <u>www.safeguarding.org.au</u>

PARISH NEWS

STA Young Adults & Youth aged 15-25

If you would like a chance to grow in your faith, meet other like-minded people, or just want to hang out, come along to the Parish Centre after 5pm Sunday Mass. **Meeting every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month.** For more information call or text Marty on 0410 730 071.

Diocesan Family Sunday - 23 October

Theme: 'Family – An Oasis of Mercy'. An afternoon family gathering with Bishop Vincent Long OFM Conv and Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity. From 2.00pm – 5.00pm at the Shrine of the Holy Innocents, 8 Greyfriar Place, Kellyville. Be part of the Way of Mercy with the Mercy Cross and relics of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop and St Teresa of Kolkata. Hosted by the Life, Marriage & Family Office, Parramatta. Family Sunday will be celebrated at Masses throughout the Diocese of Parramatta. Inquiries please phone: 02 8838 3441, or email: Imf@parra.catholic.org.au

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Students Not Returning for 2017

The school is currently interviewing families for enrolment for 2017. Places are limited in some grades. To enable the school to plan appropriately we would appreciate families of students in Grades K-5 who are <u>not returning</u> in 2017 to please notify the school **in writing as soon as possible**. Your timely attention to this matter would be much appreciated as the implications regarding staffing and resourcing by the Catholic Education Office stem from accurate enrolment numbers.

DIARY DATES

2016 TERM 3 Week 10	Friday 23 September	Leukaemia Foundation Mufti Day Term 3 Concludes
HOLIDAYS		
TERM 4	Monday 10 October	STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY – Pupil Free
	Tuesday 11 October	Students Commence for Term 4
Week 1	12	8.30-11.00am School Band
	13	8.30am Staff Prayer 12.30pm Assembly – K6A presenting
	14	
	Monday 17 October	School Band 12.30pm Assembly 3.40pm Leadership Meeting
Week 2	18	3.40pm Staff Meeting
	19	8.30-11.00am School Band
	20	8.30am Staff Prayer
	21	

Sent Home Recently:

- Touch Football Permission Note selected students
- Jollybops Science Show Incursion Note for Year 1
- Year 3 Pasta Day Note (orange)
- Girls in Motion Flyer for Year 5 & 6 Girls
- Staff Leave Announcement for 4SB (pink)
- Head Lice Management Guidelines (blue)
- Camp Thunder Holidays T20 Cricket Flyer for Year 5
- Milo in2Cricket Flyer for students in Kinder, Year 1 & Year 2
- Leukaemia Foundation Mufti Day Note (gold)

Wishing all a safe and happy holiday! See you in Term 4.

Scan with your smartphone or tablet for more information.

www.staspringwood.catholic.edu.au



Pope Francis' Prayer for the Jubilee Year of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ,

You have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved.

Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.

Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!"

You are the visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy.

Let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.

You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

Pope Francis



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