

# St Nicholas of Myra School

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Term 3 Week 3 2021

Dear St Nicholas of Myra Families,

Today is the feast of St Martha!

One of the most precious things in life is to have a home where you can go at any time and find people who accept, love and understand you. Jesus found such a home in Bethany, at the house of a woman named Martha. She welcomed Him and served Him and they became friends.

Martha loved her sister Mary. Like many other pairs of sisters, these two women were different in personality. Martha was energetic and outspoken, while Mary was quiet and reflective. Jesus loved both of them and appreciated the gifts that each one had.

The Gospel of Luke records that once, when Jesus was visiting, Martha prepared the meal while Mary sat talking to their visitor (Jesus). Martha complained that Jesus should tell Mary to help her. Jesus said that because Martha was worrying so much about the work, she did not have time to enjoy being with Him and listening to His words.

Another time recorded in John's Gospel, the sisters sent a message to Jesus that their brother, Lazarus, was ill. They knew Jesus would come and cure him; they trusted in His loving care for them. When Jesus finally came, Lazarus had already been dead for four days. As soon as she heard that Jesus was nearby, Martha, a woman of action, went out to meet Him, while Mary stayed in the house. In her grief, Martha told Jesus honestly what she had expected from Him. Jesus asked her to believe that He was the resurrection and that He had power to give eternal life to all who believe in Him. Without really understanding His mystery, Martha trusted Jesus totally and said, "I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who was to come into this world" (John 11:27). That day Jesus raised her brother Lazarus from the dead, showing that He has power over life and death and power to give eternal life.

The home Jesus found in Bethany was not only in the house but in the faithful heart of a woman named Martha.

What can we learn from St Martha? To have a faithful, welcoming and open heart to all. To be present and give the time out to the person, not the tasks/jobs to do.

In these COVID-19 times we need to remember this from St Martha, "Jesus said that because Martha was worrying so much about the work, *she did not have time to enjoy being with Him and listening to His words. In other words be in the presence of and with one another, a key takeaway with remote learning. To act in faith not tasks!*

St Martha, pray for us!

Peace and Joy  
Anita Knezevic  
Principal



# Formation

## Grandparents

Beginning this year, Pope Francis' instituted World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly will be held on the fourth Sunday of July (25 July for 2021), close to the liturgical memorial of Saints Joachim and Anne, the Grandparents of Jesus (26 July). We normally hold our Grandparents Day Mass around this time as well. This year we are going virtual and all families will receive a link to watch our school Grandparents Day Liturgy via our remote platforms this Friday, 30 July 2021.

Pope Francis instituted the World Day because 'grandparents are often forgotten, and we forget this wealth of preserving roots and passing on' what the elderly have received.

According to *Vatican News*, he emphasised the importance of grandparents and grandchildren getting to know one another, because 'as the prophet Joel says, grandparents seeing their grandchildren dream,' while 'young people, drawing strength from their grandparents, will go forward and prophesy'.

After the liturgy, we ask all students to contact their Grandparents or loved ones via a phone call or Zoom. The personal touch of a phone call from grandchildren during this time is important for all Grandparents and loved ones. We pray for all families in our St Nicholas community and offer this special prayer for Grandparents everywhere.

**Dear God,**  
**Please bless our Grandparents.**  
**Thank you for the life they gave my parents and for the life they give to me.**  
**For the ways they helped me and made me strong, I give thanks.**  
**For the ways they love me no matter what, I rejoice.**  
**For the ways they have paved the road that leads me here, I am grateful.**  
**Let them grow in wisdom and joy in life.**  
**Let them find peace and rest from their work.**  
**Let them be healed of every sickness and pain.**  
**And let them see with their own eyes the glory of Your Son, Jesus,**  
**in the love of their children and grandchildren.**  
**Bless them always until they come to rest in You.**  
**We ask this through Christ our Lord.**  
**Amen.**



This week I am sharing the Gospel reading from Sunday 25 July with some questions and a reflection you may like to share as a family.

### **Matthew 13:31-35**

*The smallest of all seeds grows into the biggest shrub of all.*

Jesus put a parable before the crowds: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed which a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the biggest shrub of all and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and shelter in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The Kingdom of heaven is like the yeast a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour till it was leavened all through.'

In all this Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. He would never speak to them except in parables. This was to fulfil the prophecy: I will speak to you in parables and expound things hidden since the foundation of the world.

### **QUESTIONS**

Let us reflect on how we support others in our lives.

- What seeds have you sown?
- How have you ensured they've flourished?
- What are the obstacles that get in the way of growth?
- Let us also reflect Jesus' use of parables. What is it about them that makes them so powerful?



### **REFLECTION**

The Gardens of our Grandparents

Moses seeks forgiveness for his countrymen and even as he is angered by their actions, he is so bound to these people that God's inability to forgive them might as well amount to him being 'blotted out'.

Many of us know the feeling of a Grandparent willing to be blotted out in service and protection of a grandchild. Our Grandparents so often convey wisdom and a mellowed, but savvy, awareness of the ways of the world. Usually, savvier than we recognise.

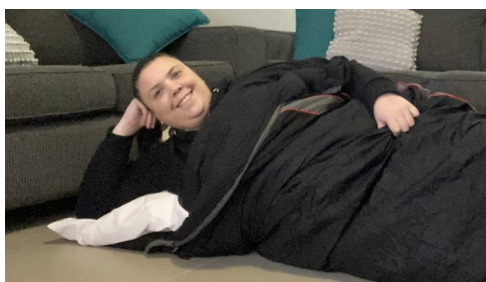
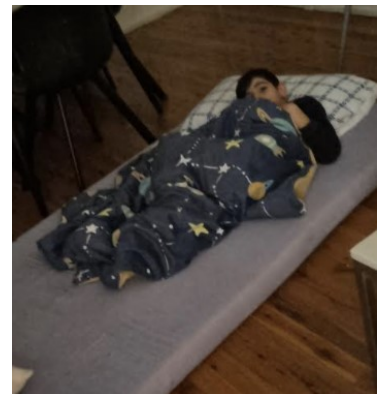
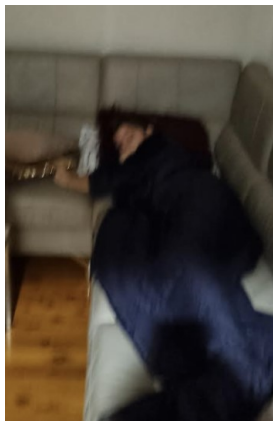
Grandparents are often the ones who plant, and lovingly tend, mustard seeds. Knowing that they will not see the fullness of this growth; a Grandparent's tender care is an act of great hope.

It's a gift then, today, to contemplate Jesus' Grandparents, known to us as Joachim and Anne. What might they have planted in their grandson? What hope might he have given them?



## Virtual Winter Sleep Out

Thank you to all those who slept out at home on Friday 23 July and sent photos via Seesaw and emailed the school. Some of the staff also slept out at home and have shared their photos. Thank you to those who donated to the St Vincent de Paul Winter Sleepout fundraising page during this time. Every little bit helps!



Last week, we read or saw in the news that two billionaires launched their spacecraft to allow travel into space. It was almost to the day that 52 years ago Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on the moon - July 20 1969.

As Niel and Buzz sat on the moon, preparing for their historic walk, Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin was preparing himself for a personal special moment. Buzz Aldrin wrote about what he did during those few hours on the moon: "There are many thousands of things that God and man have made here on earth and, before I blasted off, I got thinking and wondering what I would choose to take to the moon. So I said: What's our greatest treasure here on earth? And I thought: It's Christ's gift of Himself.

So, shortly after touchdown, I opened two little plastic packages, one containing bread and the other, wine. I poured the wine into the chalice, which our home church had given me, and I read what St John tells us that Jesus said: 'I am the vine, you are the branches.' In the one-sixth gravity of the moon the wine curled slowly and gracefully up the side of the cup. It was interesting to think that the very first liquid ever poured on the moon and the very first food eaten there were what Christ chose when He gave Himself to be our close friend."

### **2021 Talent Quest**

This Term we are excited to host our yearly Talent Quest which again, like last year will be a little different due to the potential restrictions we may/are facing.

Auditions will begin in Week 4 and students who would like to audition for the Talent Quest can record their talent at home as a video and send this to the school email or bring it to school on a USB for teachers to view (based on Health Advice at the time).

***Auditions will close by Week 5, Friday 13 August 2021.***

In Week 6, we will announce to students and families which performances have been chosen to perform for the Talent Quest. These students may choose to refilm their videos at home or submit their first audition video as the final piece. There will be no staff filming students at school due to current restrictions. In Week 10, Friday 17 September, students will watch the pre recorded video of the Talent Quest.

The Health advice will determine how and where we will be able to view our 2021 Talent Quest. We will keep you updated regarding this closer to the date.

We look forward to seeing all the wonderful talents of our students!

### **Stage 3 Camp 2021**

Due to the lockdown and current health advice the Stage 3 Canberra camp which was to be held next week can not go ahead this Term. We are in the process of rescheduling for Term 4. We are hoping that we can still give the students this experience during Term 4 and are doing all we can at this time. We will communicate any further information once we have further health advice.





## Correspondence

- ☺ Remote Learning Packs - Drive Through—Allocated times
- ☺ Reminder—Week 2 Remote Learning Survey
- ☺ All Stages—Remote Learning Timetable for Week 2
- ☺ Urgent and Important message from Busways
- ☺ Postponement of Zone and Diocesan Athletics Carnival
- ☺ Covid-19 School Procedures Update
- ☺ 2021 August Census Parent Privacy Note
- ☺ Week 3 Remote Learning Survey
- ☺ Letter re: Draft New RE Curriculum
- ☺ CEDP School Fee Support Letter



## Remote Learning - THANK YOU SHOUT OUT !

We thank you sincerely for your ongoing support and resilience as we continue to work together during this challenging period. Remember this is not a sprint it is a marathon so pace yourselves,

We are most mindful at the present time that each home circumstance is unique and that families are needing to manage a variety of significant challenges - one of which is remote learning. Our aim as a school remains to make remote learning as consistent and as manageable as possible for children and families.

Breathe and remember to be kind to one another. Some reading, writing, maths and praying together is all you need to do! There is no way you can mimic a school day; take the pressure off and just do a little at a time! Everything we give to you is a guide; everyone, everyone's expectations, every family is different - find what works for you all. If you need any support please reach out. How you as a family structure this, is completely up to you and your circumstances. We acknowledge that children learn in many different ways.

Cooking, reading, board games, imaginative play, gardening, art, physical activities are all legitimate learning experiences for your children. Please remember to do only what is possible for your family circumstances each day.