ST JOHN'S PRIMARY, RIVERSTONE strive to achieve St. John's Primary School, Riverstone Ph: (02) 9854 3200 E: riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au W: www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au Term 1 Week 6

Wednesday 4th March 2020

arents/

We are now in the Season of Lent. Lent started on <u>Ash Wednesday</u> (February 26). Last Wednesday our students, staff and parents were signed with ashes during our Ash Wednesday Liturgy. Lent is a special time of reflection and faith, practiced in prayer and by the act of giving up something. That "something" depends on the person observing <u>Lent</u>, with the main guidelines being that it has to be something that's challenging to give up during this period. In all, the act of giving up something for Lent is to practice self-discipline and remember the sacrifices Jesus made.

At the Ash Wednesday celebration at St Peter's Square, in Rome, Pope Francis added a modern twist to the list of things to quit during the season of Lent and beyond: insulting people on social media. The Pope made his appeal to tone things down while speaking to tens of thousands of people in St. Peter's Square for his general audience on Ash Wednesday, the start of the 40-day season that leads up to Easter. Lent, he said, "is a time to give up useless words, gossip, rumours, tittle-tattle and to speak to God on a first name basis," instead. "We live in an atmosphere polluted by too much verbal violence, too many offensive and harmful words, which are amplified by the internet," he said. "Today, people insult each other as if they were saying 'Good Day'.

The words of Pope Francis resonated with me. Unfortunately, social media can be used as a tool for anti-social behaviour and bullying. At the commencement of our school year I shared a prayer with staff that highlighted the need to ensure that our learning community is always a place of respectful interaction and positive words. I share this with you to contemplate and share with your family.

WORDS

(ADAGE: "If you can't say anything nice don't say anything!")

<u>Kind Words</u>

The Lord God is continually creating me.

God is making and moulding me into the someone who is worthwhile, kind, loveable and able to make a significant contribution to life and to society.

God gives me wisdom and strength like His own. He gives me a tongue to speak the truth and a mouth to praise His name and bring words of love, kindness and comfort to others. He gives me eyes to see what is good and ears to hear His word. God give me a mind to think deeply, a heart for loving and seeing the good in others and hands to help all those in need.

God calls me his friend, and promises to be with me always and everywhere.

Thank you God for being the creator of my being, for making me in your image and likeness.

Reflection

'Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless.' (Mother Teresa of Calcutta)

A most powerful instrument for building up both the community and in particular our students, is our own gift of speech. Words of praise and encouragement nourish self-esteem, build confidence and strengthen relationships.

Words spoken with enthusiasm stimulate interest and learning.

Words spoken with respect and love conveys trust.

Challenging words can express our high expectations of colleagues and students and prompt each other to excel.

Rich discussion and active listening can promote deeper thinking and reflection.

It has been said that a way of gauging the authenticity of a Catholic School is simply to listen to the way people speak to each other.

Prayer

Jesus,

You spoke to people in ways that changed their lives.

You spoke words of gentleness.

'Come to me all you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest.'

You spoke words of reassurance.

'Courage my daughter! Your faith has made you well.'

You spoke words of challenge, grounded in compassion.

'Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to cast a stone.'

May our learning community of St John's be a place of respect, love and many kind words whose echoes are truly timeless.

Last Tuesday was **Shrove Tuesday**; the final day before the austerity of the Lenten fast. Shrove Tuesday has many customs pertaining to food. In ancient times favourite foods were eaten the day before the Lenten fasting was to begin. Pancakes which are traditional in a number of European countries because eggs, sugar, and fat, commonly forbidden during the Lenten fast, are used up so they will not go to waste. The day became known as Pancake Day or Pancake Tuesday .

On behalf of our students and staff I would like to express our gratitude to parents and carers who generously donated pancakes and maple syrup for the students to experience the tradition of Shrove Tuesday. A number of parents supported our Shrove Tuesday event. Thank you to the following parents and carers: *Belinda Murray, Sarah Fuller, Lisa Maggio, Kerri Miller, Demi Bentley, Maria Galati, Rufeena Tandukar and Reena Czipri*

This week we celebrate **Catholic Schools Week**. Yesterday we welcomed parents / carers into our community to celebrate with us. Our students enjoyed showcasing their learning.

During Catholic Schools week Greg Whitby has asked all schools to recognise that we celebrate a special Catholic Schools Week this year - the **Bicentenary of Catholic Schools in Australia.** The first Catholic school in this country opened in Parramatta in 1820, Parramatta Marist Brothers. A layman, George Marley, became the first teacher working with the support of one of the first Catholic priests Fr John Therry. Together, they made school possible for the most disadvantaged. Later, the work of lay teachers would be supported and grown through the service of so many religious women and men. This work, this service, this belief in the role and place of Catholic education in the lives of young people and their families, is now our work. Two hundred years of continuous Catholic education is a remarkable achievement. Later in the year we will celebrate 200 years of Catholic Education with a special school celebration.



Building Update

The building of the administration block is making good progress. The latest update from the project manager (Matthew Howard) reports: the concrete slab has been laid, 90% of the structural steel has been erected, bricklaying will be finished this week and the roof should be erected next week.

It is anticipated that the project will be completed in 6 weeks. Disruptions to the school day has been minimal. Parking has presented some challenges but with your patience the flow of traffic and the safety of our community has been maintained. For this we thank you.

Just a gentle reminder when entering the school/parish site all vehicles must ENTER through the gates on McCulloch Street and EXIT via the gate on Garfield Road.

God Bless Patricia

Cashless Schools

This year CEDP has implemented new policies around the taking of payment within CEDP Schools and have asked that cash payments be eliminated

As a result we have incorporated most of the students regular planned activities for the year within the school based fees for 2020

While this doesn't apply to fundraising events, snack shack or our second hand uniform shop we ask that you pay for these items with the correct denominations whenever possible as change may not be available

EFTPOS facilities are available to parents and carers at the school office and over the phone (not available for snack shack purchases)

We thank you for your cooperation.



SAY CHEESE!



SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

St John's Primary Riverstone

School Photography Date: 8/05/2020 (NOTE NEW DATE)

SCHOOL PHOTO ORDER CODE: TMX EXY KJ8

SCHOOL PHOTO ORDER LINK:



https://www.advancedimage.com.au/keycode/keycodefinder.aspx?keycode=TMXEXYKJ8

Dear Parents and Carers,

School photography day is coming up very soon. Group and portrait photographs can be purchased by following the link above or by using the envelope provided. (Envelopes will be sent home soon)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

- School photos purchased online **DO NOT** require envelopes returned to school
- Don't forget to order your sibling photos now, if your school is offering sibling photos*
- Late fees/additional charges will be applied for purchases after photo day
- Photos will be returned to your school for distribution approximately six weeks after photos are taken
- Past years' photographs including sports, co-curricular and representative groups available at school's *advancedorder* site (follow the link above) and your child's *advancedyou* photo site

*Sibling photographs must be ordered either online or by order envelope prior to the day of photography. A photograph will not be taken without an order. Sibling photographs can only be taken of children enrolled at the school. **Please note:** Sibling photographs are not offered at all schools.

advancedlife would like to express our appreciation to St John's Primary Riverstone for placing your trust in us. Please remember we offer a 100% money-back guarantee on our products, for your peace of mind, and are also here to resolve any issues you may experience to ensure your satisfaction. If you have any questions, comments or feedback relating to your *advancedlife* experience, please contact us at: enquiries@advancedlife.com.au









Do you have children under 5 yrs old?

You are invited to bring them along each Thursday during school terms to playgroup in the Church Hall. *Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Carers are all welcome.*

All enquiries please phone the Parish Office

9627 1176

<u>2020 St John's Parish, Riverstone - Youth Group</u>

All children and their parents are invited to attend a get-together for the **Youth Group.** Activities for the children will be a highlight of the evening. There will also be activities for the parents. If you are interested, please come along. You are most welcome to bring a friend.

Friday Nights on the dates below <u>6pm</u> in the Church

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	28 February	24 July
	27 March	28 August
	24 April	18 September
	22 May	23 October
	26 June	27 November-Christmas Party

SUN MON TUE WED THUR FRI SAT SUN MON TUE WED THUR FRI SAT 1 2 3 6 7 8 12 13 14 15 15 6 12 13 14 15 15 16 17 18 26 27 28 29 30 31		
What's Coming Up 2nd Mar - 6th Mar Catholic Schools Week		
04th Mar 13th Mar	OPEN DAY 9.30-10.30AM and 4.30-5.30PM	
13th Mar 06-09 Apr	Cross Country Holy Week	
06-09 Apr	Last Day Term One	
09th Apr	-	
27th Apr	First Day Term Two (Students return in summer uniform)	
08th May	WHOLE SCHOOL PHOTO DAY (NOTE NEW DATE)	
11th May	Students wear winter uniform	



St John's Primary School Riverstone Bushfire Appeal Cake Stall Fundraiser Thank You to our wonderful school community for raising **\$532** at our cake stall held on Friday 21st February 2020.

What a tremedous effort made by everyone. We may be a small community but we certainly have big hearts. Well done to everyone!!!!!

Thank you for your ongoing support

Together we can make a difference, St John's the Heart of the Community



ST JOHN'S Primary School Riverstone

OPEN DAY 4 March 9:30am-10:30am and 4:30pm-5:30pm T 9854 3200 www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

We look forward to welcoming you to our school







Helping Your Child with Counting

One of the first experiences children have with numbers is "counting". Counting begins as learning a pattern of words, just like a nursery rhyme. As children's counting develops, they begin to relate the words to a quantity or number of things. At school we want the students to know the number word, the number and the quantity the number represents. The following is information from the Department of Education about counting in Mathematics.

How do children learn to count and use numbers?

Children learn the pattern of counting words by repetition. Initially, this pattern may have gaps where the child leaves out a number in the sequence, or the child may invent numbers. It is common to hear a child say twenty-ten after counting to twenty nine. However, remembering the words for each number in the correct order is only part of the process of counting. To "count" children need to match saying the number words with the correct number of "things". Children should be given lots of opportunities to practise and explore counting groups as well as making groups. Counting forwards by ones,twos,fives and by other numbers are strategies students may use to solve addition problems. Counting backwards can be used to solve some subtraction problems. What can you do at home for younger students ?

- Count the number of steps from the front door to the letterbox.
- Count the number of eggs in a carton, and again after some have been removed
- Count the number of times you and your child can throw a ball to each other without dropping it.
- Have your child count as far as he or she is able to and then encourage your child to join you while you continue counting.
- Ask your child to start counting from a number other than one. This will help them when they need to add two groups together and can start counting from the larger group.
- Ask your child to tell you the number before or after a number.
- Play games such as Dominoes, Snakes and ladders, card games or board games involving a dice with dot patterns. This will help your child to recognise patterns and count. Change the dice to one showing numbers to help your child read and recognise numbers.

A really useful free resource to access with your children to improve their mathematical ability is the website: <u>Numeracy at Home</u>

Judith Murphy Assistant Principal



Fundraiser for Bushfire Victims

On Friday 21st February 2020 St John's participated in a cake stall fundraiser to aid the bushfire victims in Australia. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parent community for your generous donations both in what was donated and also in monetary terms. It was amazing. We raised \$533.00. This is an awesome result for our school and I am sure that this will go to help the many people in the bushfire affected areas.



The season of Lent is forty days. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the season of Easter. It is the most important time in the Church's calendar. Lent is a special time of penance, prayer, fasting and almsgiving for Catholics.

Through penance we have the opportunity to think about the choices that we make and when we participate in the Sacrament of Penance we can say sorry for the wrong that we have done and know that we will be welcomed back to God.

Through prayer we prepare for Easter and Jesus' Resurrection by taking time out of our lives to talk to and become closer to God. When we fast we are reminded of the many people in the world that live without enough food for good health and many children that go to bed hungry.

By giving alms we show our commitment to justice and take real action to make life better for our brothers and sisters in Christ. We can undertake alms giving by putting money in our Project Compassion boxes that were sent home last Wednesday. Talk to your children about what they can give up at Lent, maybe it could be lollies or chocolate or going to the canteen. They could put that money that they would normally use at the canteen or shop into the Project Compassion box. We will collect the Project Compassion Boxes back in the last week of school on Monday 6 April 2020.



God Bless Kim Roffman REC





Stage 2 have settled in well to learning this term. It is an exciting time in Stage 2, and we are experimenting collaboratively with how best to utilise our spaces to optimise the learning of our students.



Students have enjoyed the Dance Fever activities on a Friday

We use our ample spaces to teach groups at an immediate point of need. Here is an example of how we can use them to demonstrate place value and addition.











PREMIERS READING CHALLENGE

STARTS THIS WEEK



PLEASE LOOK FOR THE NOTE COMING HOME THIS WEEK



OVERDUE BOOKS NEED TO BE RETURNED ASAP

As our building project continues and the Administration Office is now located in the library, please be advised that the Library will be closed for borrowing until further notice.

We appreciate your understanding during this time.

Mrs Abbott

REQUEST TO ADMINISTER MEDICATION AT SCHOOL

If your child needs to be administered medication at school (this includes any over the counter medications/creams), Parents/Carers are required to complete a 'Request to Administer Medication at School' form completed and signed by the prescribing doctor (or a separate letter from the doctor can be submitted to the school office. The letter must state the child's name, class, type of medication, dose and the time it needs to be administered and be signed and dated by the doctor.

All medication must be in it's original labelled container.

'Request to Administer Medication at School' forms can be collected from the school office.

WE STILL HAVE A NUMBER OF STUDENTS THAT HAVE NOT RETURNED THEIR UPDATED ASTHMA ACTION PLANS FOR 2020. THIS INFORMATION NEEDS TO BE SENT INTO THE OFFICE AS A MATTER OF URGENCY.

PARENTS/CARERS ARE REQUIRED TO ENSURE THAT ALL MEDICATION IS KEPT IN DATE AND THE OFFICE HAS A READY SUPPLY AT ALL TIMES

Thank you for your continued support







SCHOOL FEES

Accounts have now been generated and mailed out to all parents by CEDP.

Please complete the enclosed 'Flexible Payment Plan' form and return by the 6th March 202<mark>0</mark> in the reply paid envelope or post to:

Catholic Education Office (Billing & Receipting) Locked bag 4, North Parramatta NSW 1750

Any questions or concerns please contact Natalie in the school office on 02 9854 3200

SCHOOL FEES SIBLING DISCOUNTS

RECONCILIATIONS TO EXTERNAL SIBLING DISCOUNTS ARE CONDUCTED BY CEDP. IF YOUR CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE IN REGARDS TO SIBLING DISCOUNTS PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY. FAILURE TO DO SO COULD RESULT IN A INCREASE IN FEES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR AND YOUR CURRENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENT MAY NOT COVER THE BALANCE OF YOUR ACCOUNT.

ADVICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF ENROLMENT

Please note that under the School Fees Policy as set out by the Catholic Education Office Parramatta:

"A term's notice (10 school weeks) in writing must be given to the Principal before the removal of a student or a full term's fees will be payable.

One exception is that notice in writing will be accepted at any time during Term 4 in relation to the following year's enrolment, that is, the notice period of 10 weeks will be waived in this circumstance."



Values Award

AWARDS

Term 1 Weeks 3 & 4



sion npa

Indyah Flanagan-Irwin ES1, Ryan Cooney & Matilda Keating Stage 1, Sienna Maggio & Xygelle Aguila Stage 2, Isabella Hartz & Esha Menon Stage 3

Merit Award

Jaxx Catelotti ES1, Pei Wang & Reyden Fernandez Stage 1, Phoenix Wilkinson & Pippa Wood Stage 2, Ashton Goodwin & Stephanie Bugeja Stage 3

Principals Award

Brody Stanton ES1, Damon Tumai Stage 1, Austyn Murray Stage 2 & Jacob Sinka Stage 3





Abigael Herencia 4th March

Ruben Khadka 20th February

Stephen Joseph 2nd March Ameliah Paterson 20th February

Lucas Beazley 23rd February

Jacob Beazley 23rd February Ryan Bentley 23rd February

Ajang Anyau 23rd February

HAPPY BURDAX



Year 6



In NSW school attendance is compulsory for children over the age of six years until the minimum school leaving age of 17 years.

66.7%

What if my child has to be away from school? If your child has to be absent from school, you must advise the school and provide a reason for your child's absence. To explain an absence parents and carers may: • send a note or email the school • telephone the school, or

• visit the school and complete an absent form at the office.

A small number of absences may be justified if your child:

has to attend a special religious ceremony • is required to attend to a serious and/or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral) • is too sick to go to school or has an infectious illness

Children need to arrive to school and class on time

Lateness to school or leaving early from school must be recorded as a partial absence.

EVERY LEARNER EVERY DAY





For more information and to apply for a School Opal Card call 131 500 or apply online at www.opal.com.au/en/about-opal/opal-for-school-students/















REMINDER THAT PARENTS/CARERS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO PARK IN THE STAFF CAR PARK OR WALK THROUGH THE STAFF CAR PARK WHEN THEY DROP OFF OF PICK UP THEIR CHILD/CHILDREN FROM SCHOOL.

THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS IS PARAMOUNT AND WE APPRECIATE YOUR CO OPERATION REGARDING THIS VERY IMPORTANT MATTER.

UNEXPLAINED

ABSENCES

LETTERS ARE SENT HOME TO PARENTS/CARERS ON A REGULAR BASIS REGARDING UNEXPLAINED

ABSENCES

THIS IMPORTANT INFORMATION IS REQUIRED URGENTLY AND NEEDS TO BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE

If your child is absent from school it is the Parent/Carers responsibility to send to school with the child (on their return) a written explanation of the date and reason for absence and it also needs to be signed by the Parent/Carer. Parent/Carers may also use the Skoolbag App, email or telephone the school office.

This is a legal requirement.



KISS AND DROP SAFETY TIPS

- Always drop-off at the designated drop-off zone and follow the schools procedures.
- Drivers must remain in their vehicles at all times.
- Make sure all children exit the vehicle from the drivers side passenger door only, (door closest to the teacher on duty).
- No student should be walking behind or in-front of their vehicle.
- Make sure the handbrake is applied when the vehicle is stationery.
- All children 12 years and under are not permitted to sit in the front seat of the vehicle unless the back seats are fully occupied.
- Avoid dangerous maneuvers such as u-turns and 3 point turns.
- All passengers under 7 must be in an approved child restraint.
- To ensure correct and safe installation of your child car seat, contact an Authorised Restraint Fitting Station.

THE SAFETY OF ALL OUR STUDENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY IS PARAMOUNT

COMPLAINTS AND GRIEVANCES

If, at any time, you find that you have a concern with the school, you are encouraged to come to the school and speak with the teacher/s, assistant principal and/or principal, to find a resolution for your concern.

It is our aim to work with all members of our school community to ensure that we do the very best we can to provide a productive, safe and enjoyable learning experience for our students and professionally fulfilling experience for our staff.

If you would like to raise a concern formally, the Catholic Education Office has procedures for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly.

Information about how to lodge a complaint and a complaint form are available from the school office or in the Complaint Handling Policy and Procedures.

These documents can be accessed on the CEDP website www.parra.catholic.edu.au

SECONDHAND UNIFORM SHOP NEW TRADING HOURS

MONDAYS - CLOSED

TUESDAY - FRIDAY

OPENED from 2.30PM-2.50PM

Please see Belinda Murray in the under-croft.



Lunch orders are available on Monday's and Friday's from Sam's Café

Please write your child's name, class and order on a brown paper bag and enclose the correct money.

Children can then place their orders in the RED lunch order baskets located in the under-croft.

Orders need to be in the boxes by 8.50am

EMERGENCY

CONTACTS

IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF ALL PARENTS/CARERS TO ADVISE THE SCHOOL OFFICE IN WRITING OF ANY CHANGES/UPDATES TO PARENT/CARERS AND EMERGENCY CONTACTS

TELEPHONE/MOBILE NUMBERS

It is imperative that the school is able to get in contact with each and every child's emergency contacts at anytime

PLEASE FORWARD ANY CHANGES/UPDATES IN WRITING TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE SO YOUR CHILD RECORDS CAN BE AMENDED. YOU CAN ALSO PICK-UP A FORM FROM THE SCHOOL OFFICE

Thank you for your support



Building Child Safe Communities

Important Information for

Volunteers

Thank you for your interest in volunteering. The opportunities provided to students are greatly enhanced by the contribution of volunteers. All volunteers will need to complete the '**Undertaking for Volunteers' Form and Training Module** online before they can volunteer at St John's, please use the link below.

http://childprotection.parra.catholic.edu.au/home

Step 1: Complete 'Building Child Safe Communities - Undertaking for Volunteers' Form

You will need to complete a Volunteers Form for **each location** that you volunteer. A notification of your successful completion of the form will be sent via e-mail to the volunteering location and also to your email address.

Step 2: Complete the online training module

It is a system requirement that the online training module be completed by all volunteers commencing at any of our locations and the training needs to be completed every second year.

 \cdot Open the module by clicking the **Start** link below.

 \cdot Read through the presentation.

Complete and submit quiz questions (this will take approximately 10 minutes).

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED THE TRAINING MODULE YOU WILL ONLY NEED TO COMPLETE THE 'UNDERTAKING FOR VOLUNTEERS' FORM.

How to install the SkoolBag app

instructions for parents and community

- **1.** Get your favourite mobile device
- 2. Open the App Store/Play Store
- **3.** Search for "SkoolBag"
- **4.** Download the free app
- **5.** Open the app and add your school(s)





STAY IN THE LOO SUBSCRIBE TO THE NEWSLETTER

Take a look at our website and you can subscribe to receive our fortnightly newsletter, event reminders and news www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

SCHOOL DROP OFF AND PICK UP

REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS

MORNING DROP OFF

MORNING SUPERVISION COMMENCES AT 8.20 AM.

PARENTS AND CARERS ARE ASKED TO REMAIN WITH THEIR CHILD/CHILDREN UNTIL THIS TIME AND NOT TO LEAVE THEM UNATTENDED WAITING AT THE SCHOOL GATES.

WE ALSO ASK THAT PARENTS DO NOT PARK OR WALK THROUGH THE STAFF CAR PARK.

IF YOU ARRIVE AFTER THE MORNING BELL, PARENTS/CARERS MUST ACCOMPANY THEIR CHILD TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE TO SIGN THEM IN (STUDENTS NOT SIGNED IN BY A PARENT ARE CONSIDERED 'A PARTIAL UNEXPLAINED' AND THIS WILL BE REFLECTED ON THEIR SCHOOL REPORT)

AFTERNOON PICK UP

PARENTS ARE ASKED TO WAIT IN THE UNDER CROFT BETWEEN THE CANTEEN AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICE TO COLLECT THEIR CHILD/CHILDREN FOR AFTERNOON PICK UP.

STUDENTS ARE DISMISSED FROM THE BLUE AREA IN FRONT OF THE HALL AT 2.50 PM.

IN THE CASE OF AN EMERGENCY PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF YOU WILL BE LATE FOR PICK UP.

IF WORK COMMITMENTS PREVENT YOU FROM PICKING YOUR CHILD UP ON TIME, PLEASE MAKE ARRANGEMENTS FOR BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL CARE.

THE SAFETY OF OUR STUDENTS IS PARAMOUNT AND WE APPRECIATE YOUR CO OPERATION REGARDING THIS MATTER

School

5 McCulloch St Riverstone 2765 Tel: 9854 3200 Email: riverstone@parra.catholic.edu.au www.stjohnsriverstone.catholic.edu.au

Principal: Patricia Charlton

Office Hours 8.30am - 3.30pm

Parish

Cnr Garfield Rd & McCulloch St Riverstone 2765 Tel: 9627 2276 Email: stjohns10@bigpond

Parish Priest: Father Zakaria Gayed

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 6pm, Sunday 7am & 9am