Dear Parents, Carers and Friends of St Paul’s,

Quite clearly in Sunday’s gospel we are reminded of rules or oaths or laws or commandments of life. St Matthew made it very clear about the consequences of our poor choices. If we take the literal meaning of these consequences to heart, we could find ourselves in all sorts of trouble. Jesus invites us to reinterpret the commandments for today. We are challenged to think about the laws in a broader context rather than looking for ways to get around it. I like this line in the first reading:

‘If you wish to keep the commandments, to behave faithfully is within your power.’

It is wisdom that guides us and directs us to the right course of action. I pray for true wisdom to be able to live in right relations with each other and with God.

Last week I spent an afternoon and one morning in the car park. I know that safety and respect for each other in the car park has been written about in the past and I am going to write about it again. With the large number of cars that go through the car park, I urge you to do so with a sense of safety for all. Our children are so precious and we need to act in ways that keep them safe. Driving at a suitable speed, parking in designated spaces only, leaving the disabled spaces for those that need them and patience is what we need most. I am aware that there are many parents who come early to grab a parking spot. I am wondering if there are some others that would stagger their arrival to enable the car park to clear a little. I welcome your comments and suggestions. Please feel free to email me mbell@parra.catholic.edu.au

I would like to dispel a couple of myths that seem to be circulating. From time to time children need to be collected early from school for a variety of reasons. I will never question your right to collect your child early from school. I am asking that you respect the learning time and perhaps collect your children at the beginning or end of the breaks. That is 11am or 11.30am; 1.10pm or 2pm. This means less disruption to the class and easier for the children. The other rumour I have heard is that I have introduced a ‘no dob’ policy here at St Paul’s. Safety of our children is one of my highest priorities. If a child witnesses an unsafe or inappropriate action, they need to inform their classroom teacher or if in the playground, the teacher on duty. I hope this clarifies these two points.

From next week we will trial having only one morning assembly on Monday. The prayers that are said at other assemblies will be said in class or at the Friday assembly. While it is lovely to greet each other in the mornings, we need to get into the learning spaces to get the day underway. You are always welcome onto the playground with your children in the mornings.

Finally, a sincere thank you to all of the teachers for their work in preparing for the parent information nights. This staff is so hard working and I am very grateful for their generosity. Thanks also to all parents/grandparents who have been able to attend the meetings.

Have a great week everyone, Marian Bell

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM
A reminder to parents that Enrolment Forms for First Holy Communion are due tomorrow, Thursday 20 February.
Please note that the parent talk has been transferred to 12 March as 5 March is Ash Wednesday. Please keep the 12 March free as it is important that at least one parent attends the meeting to collect the parent resources. Sandra Sheehan Sacramental Coordinator
WELCOMING CEREMONY
Next Monday 24 February, we will be holding our annual welcoming ceremony at 9.15am in the Father David Scott Parish Centre. During the ceremony we welcome all our new kindergarten children, any children who have joined us in other grades throughout the school and our new staff members.

SCHOOL BANKING
School Banking has resumed for 2014. Information about banking has been sent home with students. Our banking day is Wednesday. Any queries please contact our school banking coordinators, Kate 0144223933 or Georgina 0417285572.

ST PAUL’S NETBALL CLUB
The 2014 netball season starts in April. The St Paul’s netball club is looking for any keen under 7’s that would like to play netball. Children must turn 7 in 2014. Gemma Sorensen (1L) and Charli Alley’s (1L) mums are the dual coaches. If your child is interested in playing, please contact Nicole Brown (Club Registrar) on 0407 868 093 or gn.brown@bigpond.com.

Thank you. Regards Alex Mowbray (Gemma’s mum) 0416 094 454 or 9333 9029

GIRL GUIDES & GIRL SCOUTS
Each year on 22 February, Girl Guides/Scouts around the world celebrate World Thinking Day (WTD). This is an opportunity for our girls to celebrate international friendship, learn about and take action on important issues. Any students at St Paul’s who are Girl Guides/Scouts have permission to wear their guide uniform on Friday 21 February.

PARENTS REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

iPad Awareness - A Hands on workshop for parents (Bring your own iPad)
Guest Presenter: Ms Monique Dalli, Leader of e-Learning, Gilroy Catholic College, Castle Hill
Monday 3 March 2014, 7pm (PRC Annual General Meeting)
Diocesan Assembly Centre, Cnr Flushcombe Rd & Marian St, Blacktown

The Transition to High School: Helping your child to build resilience and navigate change
Guest Presenter: The Resilience Centre
Wednesday 26 March 2014, 7pm (PRC Special Presentation)
St Paul's Catholic College, 198 Old Prospect Rd, Greystanes

OLMC PARRAMATTA OPEN DAY - SUNDAY MARCH 2
Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta invites you to its Open Day on Sunday March 2, 2014. Discover the College’s rich tradition and cutting edge education, enjoy a ‘comfortable cup of tea’ and join in the celebrations as we mark 125 years of Mercy Excellence at OLMC in 2014 Sunday, March 2 10am – 2.00pm. Principal’s welcome at 10.00am and 12.00 noon.
Reservations can be made by visiting www.olmc.nsw.edu.au or phone 8838 1263 to reserve your place or obtain further information.

SOCIAL SKILLS FOCUS
Our social skills focus for next week (Week 5) is

Play by the rules