



St Bernadette's Parish School, Lalor Park

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23rd August 2017

NEWSLETTER

Term 3 Week 6

Principal's Message

Last weekend we all prayed and hoped that Julian our student and friend would be returned to us. It was a time of high hopes and angst as we waited and ultimately ended with disappointment and distress.

At this point with such tragic and devastating news I feel it is important that we remember Julian the 7 year old boy, not the manner in which he lost his life.

It is often said in such tragic times that a person is a great loss, but for Julian this is very real. Julian displayed his love of others openly. A visit to his classroom of which I did daily would result in the inevitable 'Hi Mr K' and a hug. At first I was taken back, such a public display of affection but over time I realised that this was Julian, this is what he did.

A loving boy has been taken from this world. The world will be lesser as a result. We were blessed to have Julian enter our lives. He taught us many life lessons, crucially to love. In a world fraught with problems and hatred, learn a lesson from a 7 year old, love each other more. After reading this give your children a hug, a hug from Julian.

Our Story

Last Friday the staff were at a Spirituality Retreat when I received the initial news. Nothing prepares you for the phone call or the task of communicating with staff. We were all deeply distressed. Father Paul was with the staff and my memories of his message are captured quite simple as, 'This is our story, how we support one another and respond will be a measure of our community'. Julian's loss is now part of our story, we are living this today, tomorrow, next week and into the future.

Supporting one another is what we do best at St Bernadette's. I have been touched by;

- the communities response and instinctive need to be united as a one
- our instinctive need to support the Cadman family and be with them in solidarity
- the need to support the children
- the community's support of the school staff.

Julian openly displayed love to his peers and the school staff. A hug from Julian was largely taken from granted by all. What a lesson learnt this week. A seven year old has taught me the power of displaying our love with each other. Julian only seven years old has taught us a valuable lesson that what should try to emulate in our daily living.



School Support

Last Friday I communicated the tragic circumstances of Julian's situation to Greg Whitby at our Diocesan office. The response by the office was immediate. Our school staff were able to support your children with the support of key personnel who were made available to the school.

Of special note are the school counsellors who have been present at St Bernadette's this week. The team have done an outstanding job in supporting the community and ensuring the needs of students, parents and staff are met. They are the professionals who have helped to guide our school response.

Mark Rix from CEDP has liaised with the Cadman family. His vital role is to manage the media, a role he has done with distinction allowing the staff to do their job.

Mrs Devlin returned to St Bernadette's to support myself and the wider community. This support was invaluable and having a known face was a comfort to the students, parents and staff.

Father Andrew our own pastor spent the day at the school supporting us. His presence provided a known face to the children, someone they could trust and talk to.

Need Help?

The loss of Julian has been traumatic for some of our students. If you feel your child is not coping or is just in need of some special attention please come and see a member of staff or myself. We currently have a team of counsellors working at the school who are ready and willing to assist.

Alternatively you may like to contact Kids HelpLine (1800 55 1800 or www.kidshelpline.com.au). The Kids Helpline are available 24 hours a day 7 days week to assist with any concern.

Community Response

The school has been flooded with emails of support, sympathy and best wishes. We have also received a vast array of flowers. We would like to thank all those who have expressed their solidarity and sorrow in such meaningful ways.

Donations and Support

The Cadman family have endorsed a go fund me page for all donations. The page was set up by Scott Bowman, Andrew Cadman's boss. The site can be found at;

<https://www.gofundme.com/the-julian-jom-fund>

Future Steps

At this stage we will be planning a mass or liturgy to celebrate Julian's life. This will be held in the coming weeks and the community will be informed of dates when determined. We want to take time to allow the children and wider community the opportunity to make sense of Julian's loss.

We also understand the community's desire for a permanent memorial but will wait to work with family to determine an appropriate way to remember Julian. We are very conscious of the need to work with the family and for that reason we will not rush but take measured steps to support the family.

From Our REC

Dear parents, friends and guardians,

This week our school community shares a time of sadness for the loss of one of our students Julian Cadman. In this time, we turn to our Lord to seek comfort and grace to fill our hearts with forgiveness and strength. The spirit and love of Julian will continue to live through the happy memories we were blessed to share and hold forever in our hearts. Let us continually pray for the Lord's healing hands to embrace the recovery of Mrs Cadman and for Mr Cadman during this time.

On behalf of school staff, we would like to offer our appreciation and love to the school community and the team at the Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta. We have truly been touched by everyone's acts of kindness, support and love. We are such a blessed community.

On Monday the Most Rev Bishop Vincent Long and Greg Whitby, Executive Director of Schools Catholic Education Diocese of Parramatta visited the school community to support the staff and students. During this visit the students asked questions and shared prayers for the Cadman family. During Bishop Vincent's visit to Stage Three, one of our School Captains Max, shared a prayer he had written for Julian, his family and those affected by the attack.

Dear God,

We pray together for Julian and his mum and dad, please keep them safe and in your hands. Please help the St Bernadette's community, Julian's friends and peers during this tragic time. We also pray for the other victims and their families and friends. We hope they find some peace.

St Bernadette, Pray for us.

St Mary of the Cross Mackillop, Pray for us.

Mary help of Christians, Pray for us.

Amen. (Written By Max, School Captain)

We ask everyone to continue to keep both the Cadman family and those who were affected by the Barcelona attack in our prayers;

*"For the Lord does not abandon anyone forever. Though he brings grief, he also shows compassion according to the greatness of his unfailing love."
(Lamentations 3:31-32)*

With blessings,

Mrs Mabellynn Buenaventura
(Religious Education Coordinator).





Prayers and Poems of Support

These poems have been emailed to us in support at this time.



"DARLING CHILD"

*For our child, our little man,
An innocent boy named Julian,
A senseless death we mourn for,
It's not his fault, not his war,
Bless him Lord and family too,
As You take him home with You,
May his life, love and soul,
Be a beacon of light to us all.*

*Lie your head gently on this soft fluffy cloud
Your short time with us you did yourself proud !
You came here, it seems, to stay just a while
But now you are homeward-bound, Darling Child.*

*We wish for you peace in your Heavenly Home
Up there with the Angels in that Heavenly Dome
Know that your love sent from Eternity to here
Will be shared by so many who held you so dear.*