Parent & Community
Thank you Morning Tea

St Joseph’s Parish Hall
Friday 9th December
@ 10:15 - 11:15
(after End of Year Mass)

As a way of thanking all those who have helped and supported our school in 2016, St Joseph’s invites you to a special morning tea

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families,

Tomorrow we will celebrate our end of year Mass which will be followed by our Parent & Community thank you morning tea. All are
welcome to attend. This is our way of saying thank you for your support during the year.

Yesterday reports were sent home and class lists were published on Caremonkey and the school app. Next Tuesday all children will go to their new classrooms for 2017 and spend from 9am-10am with their teacher and class for 2017. We ask all children to be on time to school please. It is a great opportunity to set up a positive 2017.

As we reflect on all the great learnings from 2016 we look forward to the opportunities in 2017. The excitement that comes with our new preps as we farewell our Year 6 students. Tomorrow afternoon a Year 6 Graduation assembly will be held with everyone welcome to attend. Next Wednesday 14th December we will have our Graduation Mass at 6pm followed by our Graduation supper and ceremony for our Year 6 students and their parents. The following story helps us focus on the meaning of Christmas.

Lysandra Benke was a thirteen year old girl who, on Christmas Day 1997, had a seizure and was in a coma for five days before she died. During these five days her mother, Wanda, wrote the poem, “Christmas in Heaven”:

“I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below with tiny lights like heaven's stars reflecting on the snow.

The sight is so spectacular, please wipe away that tear, for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear but the sounds of music can’t compare with the Christmas with the Christmas choir up here.

I have no words to tell you of the joy their voices bring, for it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.

I know how much you miss me, I see the pain inside your heart, for I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.

I can’t tell you of the splendour or the peace here in this place, can you just imagine Christmas with our Saviour face to face?

I’ll ask Him to lift your spirit as I tell Him of your love. So then, pray for one another as you lift your eyes above.

Please let your hearts be joyful and let your Spirit sing, for I am spending Christmas in heaven and I’m walking with Christ the King.”

The loss of a child at Christmas might be seen as a contradiction to the very commemoration itself, the birth of Christ. Through an amazing act of faith, Lysandra’s mother did not see it that way at all. Wanda Benke chose to focus on the joys experienced by her daughter as she celebrated a heavenly Christmas. Here was a mother on Christmas Day, in very difficult circumstances giving her total attention to her child.

When Christ was born, we were able to view His life and experience His presence as a human being in our history. Christ came to show us what life can and should be. He gave us true and valid principles by which we can live true and valid lives. He formed the Church around the concept of a people held together by love. He had no gifts to offer anyone when He was born. Except the gift of Himself.

We each have the opportunity in life to offer non material gifts, when we offer a listening, non-judgemental ear, when we are tolerant of people with a faith belief different from ours, when we volunteer our time to a non-profit community assistance group, when we are more observant of the needs of friends and perhaps elderly neighbours. Each such opportunity allows us to give our attention to another person and to be part of a conspiracy suggested by Hamilton Mabie when he said, “Blessed is the season that engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love.”

As well as reading our gifts, decorations and food, we need to be reading our hearts and minds for the ultimate gift we have been given in the person of Christ. Likewise, we need to do that which brings us closer to the one whose birth we are celebrating. This might include choosing to attend events where the message is centred on the birth of Christ, rather than on Santa and his reindeers. And how about those gifts – do we give them out of expectation of return or do we give them out of love?

“God, our Father, this Christmas teach us to look to the Star, 
the sign of miracles and dreams, 
the messenger of joy, 
the promise of peace and like the Wise Men of old, 
may we follow after those things that make for peace. 
Amen.”
Lost
Last Thursday at the pool a black garmin watch was lost in the afternoon session.

Canteen News
The canteen will open in the second week of term 1 next year. It will not operate at all on Thursday of Friday in the first week.

Uniform Shop
The uniform shop will be open on Tuesday 31st January from 9-10am only.

Kilbreda New Uniform for sale
I size 16 Blazer and 1 size 10 winter skirt for sale $100 for both. In good condition.
Please see Karen O’Sullivan at school if interested.

School Fees
Please finalise your child levies and outstanding school fees by next Thursday. If you have not done so please do so as a matter of urgency.

Peace and Best Wishes

Gavan O’Donnell
Principal.

Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve
Saturday 24 December
6pm        Vigil Mass
8.30pm    Christmas Carols
9pm        Christmas Night Mass

Christmas Day
Sunday 25 December    10am

Blessing of home nativity sets

Saturday 10 December    6pm
Sunday 11 December   9.30am, 11am

Bring your home Nativity to weekend Mass.
Place it in front of St Joseph’s shrine and have it blessed!

Reconciliation

Sunday      18 December    3pm
Tuesday    20 December    9.30am, 7pm
Wednesday 21 December    9.30am, 7pm
Thursday  22 December    9.30am, 7pm
Friday   23 December    9.30am, 7pm
Saturday 24 December    9.30am
Term Dates 2017
Term 1 Wed 1st February – Friday 31st March
Term 2 Tues 18th April – Friday 30th June
Term 3 Mon 17th July – Friday 22nd September
Term 4 Mon 9th October – Wed 20th December

IMPORTANT DATES

- Friday 9th December
- Sat/Sun 10th/11th December
- Tuesday 13th December
- Wednesday 14th December
- Thursday 15th December
- Wednesday 1st February 2017
- Thursday 2nd February
- Friday 3rd February
- Tuesday 7th February
- Wednesday 8th February
- Thursday 9th February
- Friday 10th February
- Monday 13th February
- Tuesday 14th February
- Wednesday 15th February
- Thursday 16th February
- Friday 17th February
- Monday 20th February
- Tuesday 21st February
- Wednesday 22nd February
- Thursday 23rd February
- Friday 24th February
- Tuesday 28th February
- Wednesday 1st March
- Thursday 2nd March
- Friday 3rd March

9.15am End of year Mass, 10.15am Parent & Community Thankyou morning tea
2.30pm Graduation assembly
Crib's blessed after each Mass over the weekend
Meet your teacher 2017 9-10am
Yr 6 Graduation excursion, 6pm Graduation Mass and celebration
End of year 1pm
All Students return Yr 1 – 6 full day, Preps 8.45am – 1.00pm
Preps 8.45am – 1.00pm
Preps 8.45am – 1.00pm
Gym4Hire Commences Yr 5/6 students
NO Preps and NO Yr 1/2 Students, Gym4Hire Yr 3/4 students
Reconciliation Session 1 begins at 7pm in the Library Year 3 Parents (TBC)
Opening Year Mass @ 9.15am
Yr 3-6 Swimming Carnival
9.15am Mass Yr 5/6, Gym 4Hire Yr 1/2 & Yr 3/4, Parent Education Board 7pm
Gym4Hire Yr 5/6, NO Preps
Gym4Hire Preps and Yr 1/2
Welcome BBQ 5.00-8.00pm
School photos
Gym4Hire Yr 5/6, 9.15am Yr 3/4 Mass
NO Preps, Gym4Hire Yr 1/2 & Yr 3/4
Gym4Hire Preps and Yr 1/2, Reconciliation Session 2 @ 7pm in Library (TBC)
District Swimming
Gym4Hire Yr 5/6, Shrove Tuesday
9.15am Mass Ash Wednesday, NO Preps, Gym4Hire Yr 1/2 & Yr 3/4
Gym4Hire Preps and Yr 1/2
Working Bee 4.30pm