

# St Monica's Religious Education Newsletter



## Social Justice

'God is the light that illuminates the darkness' Pope Francis

Social Justice is a topic that has been at the forefront of our minds during *The Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy*. As educators of the next generation, it is imperative that we make our students aware of the issues that are happening in our world today, so they can act and respond as Global Citizens. Our Mercy actions and lessons that we have been focussing on in class have been purposefully put together to create awareness and to put our thoughts into action.

Last Friday, a group of Year 6 representatives and myself attended a Social Justice Conference run by Kids View, a non-profit organisation that raises awareness and funds for people living in poverty in the Philippines. During the seminar, we were told about some alarming statistics in our world. The facts that really astonished me were:

- mobile phone than a toilet.
- Between one-quarter and one-third of the 4 billion metric tons of food produced is lost or wasted.
- 1.2 billion people live off \$1.25 a day.
- A child born to a mother who can read is 50% more likely to survive past the age of 5.
- 165 million people suffer from childhood malnutrition.

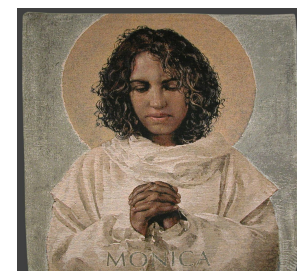
In response to these statistics, our Mercy Group has organised a prayer session. This prayer session will be open to any student who would like to attend. It will be held in the AV room every Thursday at second ½ lunch. This prayer session will give students the opportunity to pray, listen and reflect on issues in our world today. This will be just one aspect of our continual response to Social Justice, and hopefully, like our Patron Saint, St Monica, we will see change through the power of persistent prayer.

On Friday 26 August, we will celebrate the Feast Day of St Monica. This special feast

day will be celebrated with a whole school mass (at 9:15), followed by singing happy feast day and cutting of a cake to celebrate St Monica's Day. In response to our July Mercy Focus *Clothe the Naked*, we will have a blue t-shirt muffin day on Friday 26 August. We ask for a donation on the day, and all monies raised will be donated to the refugee centre at Arrupe Place. This initiative is part of our Mercy in Action focus.

Enjoy the remainder of the term, and we look forward to you joining us for our St Monica's Day Mass.

Peace and love,  
**Michelle Rosewell**  
Religious Education Coordinator



# SOCIAL JUSTICE

Editorial by **Brendan Pospischil** and **Brandon Lukic**

The Social Justice Day was attended by students of Stage Three as well as students of OLMC (Our Lady of Mercy College, Parramatta), St Clare's High School and St Patrick's High School. The workshop was run by a Philippines charity **Bahay Tuluyan**, as a part of their Kids View project. On the day, the students first participated in the 'lolly game' that demonstrated a snapshot of how the world's resources are distributed and how we can better equalise them.

Throughout the day, we participated in small scale workshops, where we all had the opportunity to live in the shoes of a different person for most of the day. Our allocated persons background was determined by the amount of lollies that we received at the start of the day. The workshops were based on everyday things like your job (they were real life jobs that some people actually have). Some of the other workshops were based on health and education as well as food.

At the end of the day the students participated in a conversation about Global Goals for Sustainable Development. We watched a demonstration from the hosts about their lives as kids and living in poverty in the Philippines. We listened about people like Iqbal, a poor individual and Craig Kielburger, a rich person, both of who have made a difference in our world. At the end of the day the students were able to look at a selection of bags and purses made from discarded plastic packaging.



## Bahay Tuluyan

Bahay Tuluyan is a non government organisation that provides a variety of programs and services aimed at preventing and responding to abuse and exploitation of children in the Philippines. They deliver social services and programs on the street and in the communities. They seek to promote, fulfil, respect and protect children's rights and to create a Philippines where all children's rights are respected.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE WHERE TO NOW?

**Raise Awareness: at assemblies each week, discuss the stories of people living in poverty and injustice.**

**Write and say prayers for all people in our world living in difficult situations eg: poverty, malnutrition, homelessness, lack of health care and education and people living without electricity and fresh water.**

**Tell the stories of people who have already made a difference in third world countries.**

**Promote awareness to our school community through newsletter articles.**

**Develop a Social Justice Team who will plan and coordinated events to raise money and awareness in Social Justice Month in December.**

## What is your Super Power?

Everyone can make a difference and bring about change. We want to build a compassionate school community that demonstrates global awareness and action on social justice issues.

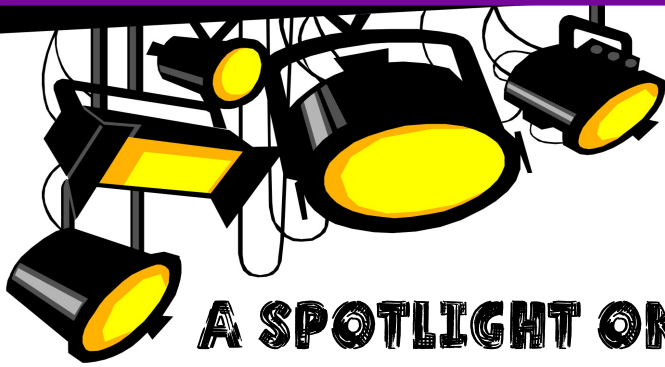
Everyone has a super power.

**What will be your super power?  
How will you use your super power to make a difference?**



## 2016 Formation Goal:

For all students to have a deeper understanding of Sacred Scripture (with a focus on the Gospel of Luke) and its application to Catholic life.

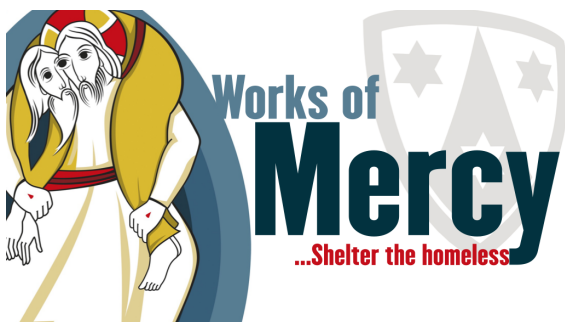


*Mrs Gardoni*

We think of shelter as a basic requirement of life, but many people in our society simply do not have a roof over their heads or a safe place to live. For our children, this can be a difficult concept to understand. During the month of August, the focus within our learning spaces, for the corporal works of Mercy is 'Shelter the homeless'. This will involve the students in each class making posters to convince people how and why we should shelter the homeless. These will then be displayed in the Mercy stair well.

What can we do as parents to support our children's understanding of 'Shelter The Homeless'? Take the time to discuss the plight of the refugees, and those who are currently displaced due to war. We can look around our homes and be grateful for what we have. At the same time, we can clear the clutter from our homes and donate useable items for someone else's home. As with our clothing. It is about simplifying our own lives and using what we have to benefit someone else.

It is through these actions that we spread Jesus' love through acts of mercy in our daily lives.



## 2016 Sacramental Program

The **Sacrament of First Holy Communion** will be held on the weekend of 27 and 28 August.

If your child has received the *Sacrament of Baptism* and is in Year 3 or above he/she is eligible to receive the **Sacrament of Reconciliation on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November @ 7pm**

**Registration** after Mass will be held on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August @ 5pm Mass and Sunday 21<sup>th</sup> August @ 9am Mass. Bring Copy of Baptismal Certificate and Donation \$30

**Parent Only Meeting** in School Community Room on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September @ 7:00pm.

### Sacramental Dates for 2016

- First Communion: Weekend 27/28 August
- Reconciliation: Friday 18 November @ 7:00pm

## Holy Year of Mercy

During this Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, we have been focusing on a different aspect of the Corporal Works of Mercy each month. The Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy are actions that we can perform that extend God's compassion and mercy to those in need.

The Corporal Works of Mercy include:

- Feed the hungry (May)
- Give drink to the thirsty (June)
- Clothe the naked (July)
- **Shelter the homeless (August)**
- Visit the sick (September)
- Visit the imprisoned (October)
- Bury the dead (November)

Our response to our July Mercy Work *Clothe the Naked* will be a 'blue' mufti day for a donation. This will be held on Friday 26 August (St Monica's Day). All monies will be donated to Arrupe Place at OLMC. In August our focus on *Shelter the Homeless* will involve the students in each class making posters to convince people why we should shelter the homeless. These will be on display in the Mercy hallway.

### ST MONICA'S DAY CELEBRATIONS:

**Tuesday 23 August**

- Salaka African Beat Incursion

**Friday 26 August**

- St Monica's Day Mass, 9:15am
- Cutting of Cake, approx. 10:15 (after mass)

### SOCIAL JUSTICE:

On Friday 26 August, students will have a blue t-shirt mufti day. All monies raised will be donated to Arrupe Place, Victoria Rd, Parramatta. The colour blue was chosen to represent Mercy.



# Term 3 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Here is a list of the Liturgies and Masses for Term 3, 2016. There is always an open invitation for you to join us in prayer. We hope that you might take up the opportunity to attend Mass with your child's class during the Term.

Week	Date	Event	Who's Involved
<b>Week 5</b>	Saturday 20 August	Rehearsal for Holy Communion, 3:00pm	Holy Communion Participants
	Saturday 20 August & Sunday 21 August	Registration for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, 5:00pm mass and 9:00am mass	
<b>Week 6</b>	Monday 22 August	RLA Online Test Commences	Years 4 & 6
	Thursday 25 August	ES1 Parish Mass, 9:15am	ES1
	Friday 26 August	Mass for the Feast of St Monica, 9:15am	Whole School
	Saturday 27 & Sunday 28 August	Sacrament of First Holy Communion	Holy Communion Participants
<b>Week 7</b>	Thursday 1 September	Stage 3 Parish Mass, 9:15am	Stage 3
	Friday 2 September	Fathers Day Liturgy, 9:00am in hall	Whole School
<b>Week 8</b>	Wednesday 7 September	Stage 2 Parish Mass, 9:15am	Stage 2
	Thursday 8 September	Stage 1 Parish Mass, 9:15am	Stage 1
<b>Week 9</b>	Thursday 15 September	ES1 Parish Mass, 9:15am	ES1

## THE RELIGIOUS LITERACY ASSESSMENT (RLA)

The Religious Literacy Assessment project, managed within the Evangelisation and Religious Education Service Area provides, at a diocesan level, a sustained and systemic approach to the documentation and reporting of students' learning in the key learning area of Religious Education (RE), specifically religious literacy. Celebrating and sharing the good news about students' learning in RE is an important component of this initiative and enables the story to be told on a continuing basis.

Being religiously literate requires children within a Catholic school to be able to communicate with and be at home in Catholic society and religion in general. Thus, assessment of religious literacy focuses on students' knowledge and understanding of the key concepts that are being addressed by the RE program and the student's ability to communicate within their religious tradition.

The Religious Literacy Assessment is placed in Year 4, at the end of Stage 2, Year 6, at the end of Stage 3 and in Year 8 at the end of Stage 4. Its intention is to influence learning and accountability and drive a culture of reflection on learning and pedagogy in the domain of RE.

The RLA will take place at St Monica's from Monday 15 August. Year 4 will be working on two components to their RLA, a practical 'hands-on' project in response to their scripture they have been studying, as well as an online component in Week 5. Year 6 will complete the online component only during Weeks 6 and 7.

If you have any questions or would like any further information about the RLA, please see the REC or one of the class teachers.

