



St Monica's Religious Education Newsletter



Advent – Commencing on Sunday 3 December

A time for waiting...

“The virgin will be with child and give birth to a son, and they will call him Emmanuel”

Matthew 1:23

‘O Holy Night...the stars are shining brightly’

To parents, students, teachers and all those who are part of the St Monica's school community:

As the end of the year comes to close, we begin to prepare ourselves for the miraculous birth of Jesus Christ. It begins with Advent, commencing on Sunday 27 November. Advent is a time of expectant waiting. We will wait in hope, faith and love as we prepare ourselves and our families for the Birth of Jesus. The symbol of Advent is the Advent Wreath. Each part of the wreath has a special significance and meaning:

- **Greenery:** The wreath is made of various evergreens, symbolising continuous life
- **Holly:** The Holly reminds us of the crown of thorns
- **Candles:** The four candles symbolise the four weeks leading up to Christmas. Three candles are purple and one is rose. The purple candles

symbolise penance, prayer and sacrifices. The rose candle, lit on the third Sunday, symbolises rejoicing, as Jesus is almost here.

- **Light:** The light from the candles signifies Jesus, light of the world.

The two main events we still have yet to celebrate before the end of Term include:

- **St Monica's Christmas Celebration with Michael Mangan** (Tuesday 28 November)
- **End of Year Mass/Year 6 Graduation** (Thursday 14 December, 11:15am)

All dates are compulsory school events and all students from K-6 are expected to attend. These will be the last two events on our calendar where we can celebrate the year that we have had, farewell our Year 6 students, and join in the joy of the Christmas season as a school community.

Finally, as we conclude the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy and the Holy Doors have closed, we will finish our year with one final **Social Justice** Project. Over the next few weeks we will be collecting non-perishable items to make Christmas Hampers. These hampers will be donated to St Vincent de Paul, who will distribute them to families in our community who are in need. Donating food for the Christmas Hampers will allow others in our community to enjoy the spirit of Christmas with their families. If families would prefer to give a monetary donation then we will give this money to St Vincent de Paul for food vouchers. More information on these two Social Justice Events are located in this edition of the RE Newsletter.

I would like to wish our community a safe Christmas and holiday season. Enjoy time with family and friends and have a fantastic New Year. We look forward to seeing everyone at the beginning of the 2018 school year.

Peace and love,
Michelle Rosewell
Religious Education Coordinator



A Spotlight On... **Mrs Wedesweiler**

In Term 3 Stage 2 were split into Year 3 and 4 groups for our Religion topics. Year 4 have been looking at Reconciliation with reference to God's forgiveness and healing, which is their Religious Literacy Assessment topic. The two Scripture passages we have been looking at are 'The Parable of the Prodigal Son' and 'Jesus and Zacchaeus'. We were fortunate to have Father Regie visit us to speak about the scriptures. He talked about God's UNCONDITIONAL LOVE and that he will always forgive us which really resonated with the students. Many of them spoke about the unconditional love their parents show towards them, which is so lovely to hear and so good for them to know they are loved. The students' have identified key words from these scriptures which helped their retelling of the stories and enabled them to understand the *Literal Sense* of the Gospel. Looking at the *Spiritual* and *Application* Senses has given them a deeper understanding of these Gospels and how it relates to their life.

2017 DATES TO REMEMBER

Christmas Concert

Tuesday 28 November – In the playground
Commences at 7:00pm

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday 1 December – 7:00pm

Year 6 Graduation/End of Year Mass

Thursday 14 December – Church
Commences at 11:15am

Followed by a cutting of the cake

Please make a note of these dates on your calendar.

Social Justice: St Vinnie's Christmas Hamper Appeal

Our St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal will begin on Monday 27 November. We will be collecting a range of non-perishable items that will be donated to St Vincent de Paul and used to make hampers. These Christmas hampers will be donated to families in our community who are less fortunate, so they have the opportunity to celebrate Christmas with their families and friends.

We would like to ask that every child donates at least one non-perishable item to the Christmas hamper in their classroom. Some food suggestions include tinned food (vegetables, fruit, baked beans, tuna, etc), pasta, cereal, jam, soup, noodles, bottles or drink or juice, or anything else that has a long expiry date.

The hampers will be donated to the St Vincent de Paul who will then distribute where needed.

Social Justice: Refugee Mission Tree

The Social Justice Team are working on projects to implement throughout the month of December to support people in our local area. The first project is called Mission Tree. The team have created Christmas tags, each with a different gender and age on them. Each family will have the opportunity to select a tag from the Mission Tree and prepare a Christmas gift for this child. You will wrap and return your gift and place it, with the Christmas tag, under the Mission Tree. These gifts will be donated to the refugees at Arrupe Place.



Walking with Refugees

God of Mercy,

Help me hear Jesus' wishes: "Love one another as I have loved you."
This includes everyone and everything.

We pray for those forced to leave family, country, home, and all their belongings. We pray all Australians open their arms to welcome our brothers and sisters.

May we let those we disrespected, forgive us of our sins, and help us build a stronger community.

We ask this in Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen

Written by the Social Justice Team

2017 Social Justice Team

As the year comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the 2017 Social Justice Team. This team has been working tirelessly this year to raise awareness and money for people in need within our local community, in particular the refugees at Arrupe Place.

Throughout the year the team have worked on many projects including:

- ✓ Term 1: **Girls from Oz.** The team raised money for students in rural Australia to participate in a Creative Arts programs
- ✓ Term 2: **Arrupe Place Winter Appeal.** The team collected monetary donations over a week and used the money to purchase supermarket vouchers for refugees to use during winter.
- ✓ Term 3: **Walking with Refugees.** Presenting at fortnightly assemblies to the whole school to raise awareness on refugees within our local community and on the Diocesan year-long mission: Walking with Refugees.
- ✓ Term 4: **Mission Tree.** The SJT are collecting new toys to donate to child refugees at Arrupe Place.
- ✓ Term 4: **Christmas Appeal.** Collecting food for donation to St Vincent de Paul for families in need during Christmas time.

A lot of time, effort and preparation has gone into organising these events. Thank you to everyone in the team. Applications are now open for the 2018 SJT. Please see Miss Rosewell for more details. Applications close on Friday 1 December.



2017 Social Justice Team Representatives

Jessica Chapman, Amelia Furjanic, Charlotte Newey,
Trinity Bird, Jericho Crame, Gene Kneipp, Henry
Corcoran and Isabella Smith

Term 4 Calendar of Upcoming Events

Here is a list of the Liturgies and Masses for Term 4, 2017. 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	Location
Week 8	Tuesday 28 Nov Thursday 30 Nov Friday 1 December Sunday 3 Dec	Christmas Celebration Stage 2 Parish Mass Sacrament of Reconciliation First Sunday of Advent	Playground, 7:00pm Church, 9:15am Church, 7:00pm
Week 9	Tuesday 5 December Thursday 7 December Sunday 10 December	Stage 1 Parish Mass Stage 3 Parish Mass Second Sunday of Advent	Church, 9:15am Church, 9:15am
Week 10	Thursday 14 December Sunday 17 December	End of Year Mass Third Sunday of Advent	Church, 11:15am
Week 11	Sunday 24 December	Fourth Sunday of Advent	

St Monica's 2017 Christmas Concert

Peace on Earth

Our 2017 Christmas Concert will be held on **Tuesday 28 November**. Please read the details below:

Where: Undercroft Area (as per 2016)

Time: Concert commencing at 7:00pm (children will be lining up in their assembly lines near the flags)

What to wear:

ES1 – Christmas clothing

Year 1 – White and Red

Year 2 – Christmas clothing and Santa hats

Year 3 – Christmas clothing and Santa hats

Year 4 – Australiana Themed Clothing e.g. flannelette shirts

Year 5 – White t-shirts and sunglasses

Year 6 – White t-shirts and tinsel

Please note for safety reasons NO THONGS allowed for all students

Parking: No parking will be available onsite.

Please allow enough time to find parking in nearby streets or Bunning's.

You are welcome to bring a fold-up chair or picnic rug to sit on. We will have S2 and S3 chairs available.

Please be reminded that this is a compulsory school event.

If you are unable to attend, please let your class teacher know ASAP.