From the Principal

Dear Parents,

We've almost completed three weeks of the school year and what a brilliant start to the year.

The children have all settled in well into the year and routines have developed quickly.

I have already completed a number of school tours with prospective families of Prep children who may be commencing Prep at St John's next year and the constant positive feedback from the tours is about the atmosphere in the classrooms and the behaviour of the children. It's lovely to hear these kind words and certainly makes me feel very proud of the children and their teachers.

ASH WEDNESDAY TODAY - LENT BEGINS

Today is Ash Wednesday. It marks the beginning of Lent. It is a special time for stopping and thinking about our spiritual focus.

Its name comes from an ancient rite in which those who start their Lenten practice are signed with ashes on their foreheads. These ashes come from the burnt palm branches of last year's Palm Sunday celebration.

Last Monday afternoon Fr Mario led the school at Paraliturgy where we formally burnt the palms. These palms were used at today's Ash Wednesday Mass. The marking of ashes on our foreheads is a sign to remind us to live the way Jesus wants.

During the holy season of Lent, God offers us a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and with one another. In the “busy-ness” of our everyday life, these 40 days give us a chance to pray more deeply, experience repentance for the good we have failed to do and to be generous to those in need. Lent ends after 40 days with Easter.

I ask you to reflect during this season of Lent as a time when we think about changing ourselves to be better in our lives and a time of thinking.
Shrove Tuesday - Pancake Tuesday
Our 10th Annual Pancake Tuesday was held yesterday and the wonderful smell of cooked pancakes is still lingering throughout the school building after yesterday.

The response from parent helpers this year was wonderful, and in fact, far exceeded expectations. Thank you so much to all the helpers who were able to come along and ensure a smooth running of this great event. I really did love the great spirit of cooperation between all parents who came along and of course the great joy on the children’s faces when they see a parent helping out.

My thanks in particular to the PIC for coordinating the event and a big thank you to Virginia Bourke for her wonderful work as the lead coordinator.
SCHOOL CLOSED – LABOUR DAY – 9th MARCH
A reminder that school is closed on Monday, 9th March for Labour Day, a public holiday.

PREP INFORMATION EVENING
This information evening is a wonderful opportunity to be able to hear about Literacy and Numeracy and about some of the approaches that are currently undertaken in the classroom and what you can do to also enhance learning in the home environment.

I encourage all Prep Parents to come along tomorrow evening (Thursday, 19th February) commencing at 7.00pm in the Learning Resource Centre (Library).

You can access the LRC via the main doors on the top yard.

ENROLMENTS FOR SIBLINGS NOW OPEN
Enrolments for siblings who are starting school in 2016 are now open.

Enrolment forms are available from the office. Please indicate to the Office staff that you require a sibling Enrolment Form when collecting your form.

It is imperative that Sibling Enrolment Forms be completed as soon as possible so that planning and determination of school structure for 2016 can take place.

A reminder that within the state of Victoria, your child must be five years of age by 30 April of the year they start school.

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL
A reminder that voting for nominees for a place on the School Advisory Council are now open.

Voting closes at 4pm on Tuesday, 24th February. Your vote should be placed in an envelope marked ‘S.A.C.’ and returned to school office.

Voting forms are attached to this Newsletter.

PARKING ON YARRA STREET
I know that parking is dire in the school vicinity at peak times but I ask for your common sense. The safety of all the children is of the utmost importance to all of us. I realize that mornings can be hectic, and everyone can feel a bit rushed, but please take a little extra time to consider the safety of your children.

I encourage you to park further away especially on the southern side of Yarra Street and have a pleasant walk to school with your children. With the installation of the School Crossing on Yarra Street a few years ago, this is now a safe and viable option.

Please note, that even though it is a 2 minute parking zone on Yarra Street, immediately in front of the school entrance, we have agreed as a school community that this zone ONLY allows for drop-off in the morning and immediate pick-up after school, so it’s important that we observe this in order to minimize frustration for other parents.

A reminder too that double parking is a dangerous practice and I urge you to refrain from doing this. May I suggest again that you leave home 5 minutes earlier and park further away where there is sufficient parking and have a pleasant short walk to school with your child.

Yours sincerely

Nick Marinelli, Principal
Lord Jesus, bless us as we begin this journey of Lent with you so that on Easter Sunday we may feel you rising within us.

We pray Lord, let us be like you.

Amen

The Church Season of Lent
Today commences the church season of LENT.

Burning of the Palms
On Monday the students took part in a ceremony of the Burning of Palms. Father Mario led us in this ceremony where the blessed palms and greenery from last year's Palm Sunday were burnt. The ashes produced were used at today's Ash Wednesday masses. Thank you to those families who sent their blessed palms to school to be burnt.

Ash Wednesday
The students from Year 1 to Year 6 attended mass at 12.00pm to mark the beginning of Lent.

Ash Wednesday Mass will also be held at 7.30p.m.

Class Masses Term 1
These mass dates and times are correct at time of publication. Sometimes unforeseen circumstances occur to change these dates/times.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Monday March 5th</th>
<th>5/6B, 5/6C and 5/6S</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday March 6th</td>
<td>Grade 3P and 3W</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday March 17th</td>
<td>Grade 1L and 1T</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday March 19th</td>
<td>Grade 2D and 2P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 23rd</td>
<td>Grade 4C and 4F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 26th</td>
<td>Prep N and PV</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Sacramental Dates for 2015
Confirmation  Grade 6 - Sunday June 14th 2.30p.m. St Patrick's Cathedral
Eucharist     Grade 4 - Saturday August 29th 11.00a.m. OLMC
Reconciliation Grade 3 - Thursday August 6th and Thursday August 13th 7.30p.m.

God bless you and your family.
Elizabeth Williamson
(Education in Faith Leader)
Walk To School
Last October, we celebrated Walk to School month which has encouraged many of our students to continue walking, riding or scootering to school. I would like to congratulate Darcy Mills and the Csar family, Mairead, Declan, Patrick and Niamh, who established their Walking Bus last year and continue to run a daily Walking School Bus down Cape St, Heidelberg. They reported that their bus is 23 students strong and they believe it will continue to grow. Not only are these students keeping fit and showing great team work and responsibility, they are also limiting greenhouse gas emissions by not travelling by car to school. As an AuSSI school, we are committed to working as a community to reduce our school’s carbon emissions and this is a very effective way to help reduce our impacts on the environment.

I’d like to congratulate the Walking Bus leaders and all other students walking to school on their fantastic efforts in continuing the Walking School Bus initiative. What wonderful leaders we have at St John’s! It would be great to see more of our students walking, riding or scootering to school this year. Remember, safety always comes first and it is best to travel with a group of students.

Wrapper Free Lunch
Every Tuesday we celebrate Wrapper Free lunch day. This means your entire lunch needs to be packaged without the use of wrappers (e.g. glad wrap, glad bags, foil, baking paper). On Tuesdays, we collect each classes tally and the class with the least amount of wrappers negotiates a prize with their classroom teacher. Ideally, we would like to see our school make a very big effort in trying to reduce our impact on the environment by making every day a wrapper free day.

Chicken News
A very big thank you to the Lachal family (Hugh and Tom) for offering to take care of our chickens at their home over the Christmas holidays. We really appreciate the time and effort you put into ensuring our Chickens were kept safe over the break.

Would you be interested in looking after the chickens on a weekend? Our chickens enjoy roaming free in the school yard and they especially enjoy the peace and quiet they get on the weekends. It will involve you letting the chickens out in the morning, feeding them and ensuring they have water, then putting them back in the coop in the late afternoon. If you would like to help out in any way, please email Connie Costa: ccosta@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

If there is enough interest, I will set up a roster/timetable in the office for families to fill in.

Thank you

<table>
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<tr>
<th>BIRTHDAYS</th>
<th>FORTHCOMING EVENTS</th>
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<tr>
<td>19 Feb</td>
<td>Thursday Feb 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Natalie G 3P</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Feb</td>
<td>Kids Matter/ Better</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Damien D 2P</td>
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<tr>
<td>21 Feb</td>
<td>Buddies Day</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Giacamo C 1T</td>
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<tr>
<td>22 Feb</td>
<td>Thursday Feb 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cora L 4F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 Feb</td>
<td>Prep Parents Info</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jacob G 4F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hugh T 1T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parent Literacy</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Venetia V 5/6B</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Helper's Training</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you
KidsMatter Better Buddies Day
Tomorrow Thursday 19th February, the whole school will participate in our first official KidsMatter event for the year: “KidsMatter Better Buddies Day”.

The purpose of the day is to support the Preps and other new students in their transition to our school - to ensure they feel welcome and safe and build familiarity with the school environment. It is also an opportunity for all students to build positive relationships across the school, enhancing their sense of belonging and connectedness. This clearly reflects the KidsMatter goal of promoting a positive school community where every-

The children will be organized into multi age groups and participate in various activities which will focus on the KidsMatter motto “Every face has a place”. As usual the Better Buddies values: caring for others, friendliness, respect, valuing difference, including others and responsibility will also be highlighted.

The children are able to bring their favourite teddy/soft toy to school and are invited to wear something orange or pink - the KidsMatter colours (this is optional)

Better Buddies is an initiative of The Alannah and Madeline Foundation designed to create friendly and caring school communities where bullying is reduced.

For more information about the Alannah and Madeline Foundation and the Better Buddies initiative please visit the website: http://www.betterbuddies.org.au/

KidsMatter Student Action Team: Well done to the members of the KidsMatter SAT who manned an information booth during lunchtimes last week. This was one of their first actions for the year. They successfully informed the other students about KidsMatter and managed to collect from them many interesting ideas on how to make our school even better. A great team effort!

Save the Date ............

Grade 6 Parents Dinner
Friday March 20
More details to follow
Mary Foenander 0438 980 818
Family Mathematics Challenge!

Welcome to the 2015 school year!

As part of St. John’s continuing efforts to promote the love and learning of mathematics, a Mathematics Challenge will be put in the Newsletter each week. These challenges are intended for the family to do together, to talk about mathematics and to see how you all solve the problems.

Record how you do the challenge and then bring it in to the office (with name and class) and post it into the Mathematics Challenge Box by Friday.

Have fun!

**Family Mathematics Challenge 1**

Can you take away 6 toothpicks from this arrangement and leave only 3 squares?

Record how you do the challenge and then bring it in to school (with name and class) and post it into the Mathematics Family Challenge Box in the office by Friday.
St John’s students will be celebrating active travel day and are asked to RIDE, SCOOT, SK8 or WALK TO SCHOOL and leave the car at home.

Is your helmet ready?

Check out the attached flyer

For parents who would like to be involved, please email ourgarden3084@gmail.com

This free community / not for profit event is proudly brought to you by the APPLE team. Ride On!

www.bicyclenetwork.com.au
The Ride2School Program encourages the use of helmets when children are riding bikes or scooters. We've developed this guide to ensure your child's helmet is the correct size and fit.

**Step One:** With loose straps, ensure that the helmet sits centered on the head.

**Step Two:** Adjust the chin straps — it should sit tightly but not uncomfortably.

**Step Three:** Ensure the helmet sits correctly on the head by measuring out a two-finger spacing from the top of the brow to the start of the helmet.

**Step Four:** If possible, adjust the connection point of the neck strap so that it sits on the jaw, just below the ear.

**Step Five:** Tighten the neck strap so that both sides are tight and both connection points remain on the jaw between the ears. The straps should not twist or cover the ears. When done up correctly the straps should provide a snug fit over the ears and under the chin.

**Step Six:** Ensure that the helmet does not move off the forehead or from side to side.
Hi all,

As you know our beautiful boy Adam has been extremely unwell over the last few months. He has made and is making amazing progress.

The Royal Children’s Hospital has been so fantastic. It is such a special place and its team help so many children and families. We would love to help them raise funds and we can even get fit in the process.

Run4the kids is on Sunday 22nd of March. There is a short course (5.4 km) and long course (15.5km). You can walk or run. Plenty of time to train.

Go to the website  
http://www.runforthekids.com.au
Select the team "Adam Tiger Piaia" password "Tiger" and enrol.

It will be a great day and most of all, for a good cause. Any questions, give me a call. We hope you can be a part of our team.

Karina and Michael x

On the 20th February two years ago, we lost a very dear, lifelong friend to Melanoma, without much warning.

In memory of Marc, we will be walking in this weekend’s “March for Melanoma” to be held at Princes Park, Carlton North, Sunday 22nd February at 9.00am.

Please consider participating in this walk – enjoy an active day out with your family, friends or sporting group and support a great cause at the same time! All funds raised go to The Melanoma Institute Australia which is dedicated to world-class research, treatment and education focused on preventing and finding a cure for Melanoma. For more information, or to make a donation, please visit:  
or

If you know someone touched by Melanoma, please pass this on and help spread the word and raise awareness of this terrible disease.

Your support, in any way, would be appreciated so very much.
With thanks,
The Di Paola Family
# Student Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Comment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Matilda B</td>
<td>PN</td>
<td>For always following instructions very carefully. Well done Matilda!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack P</td>
<td>PN</td>
<td>For being an excellent listener, especially during his first dance lesson. Fantastic effort Jack!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelia V</td>
<td>PV</td>
<td>For being such a beautiful and caring friend to everyone in Prep V. Keep up the fantastic effort!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph V</td>
<td>PV</td>
<td>For being a responsible and mature member of Prep V. You are a wonderful role model Joseph!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donncha O</td>
<td>1L</td>
<td>For using so many excellent de-coding skills when you are reading. What a super star. Keep up the great work!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lola S</td>
<td>1L</td>
<td>For the excellent planning and composing of your Autobiography. Such detail and so informative.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hugh T</td>
<td>1T</td>
<td>For being such a kind and caring member of the class. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah D</td>
<td>1T</td>
<td>For consistently making great contributions to class discussions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maia T</td>
<td>2P</td>
<td>For her willingness and determination to challenge herself in Mathematics. I encourage you to continue sharing your strategies with your peers. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angus G</td>
<td>2P</td>
<td>For his determination to improve his handwriting. Well done Angus, keep up the positive attitude.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aaron P</td>
<td>2D</td>
<td>For your infectious smile that radiates 2D. Keep smiling and working hard!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris D</td>
<td>2D</td>
<td>For your smooth start at St John’s, welcome to 2D. We are all very excited and can’t wait to learn more about you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas G</td>
<td>3P</td>
<td>For sharing your enthusiasm for learning in fun ways. We loved your book it really got us all thinking.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panashe M</td>
<td>3P</td>
<td>For applying yourself to completing all classroom tasks with enthusiasm and eagerness. What a great example you’ve set already.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel R</td>
<td>3W</td>
<td>For his mature attitude as a learner. I am so impressed with your enthusiasm and commitment to your work Daniel!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ava V</td>
<td>3W</td>
<td>For being a great listener and an active participant in our whole class discussions. Keep up the sensational work Ava!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alessio C</td>
<td>4C</td>
<td>For know it’s ok to change your thinking in maths - well done Alessio, you are a champ!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oliver M</td>
<td>4C</td>
<td>For being so resilient and positive when things get tough - a great sign of maturity Ollie - well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ryan D</td>
<td>4F</td>
<td>For adjusting into a new class in a super-doper way! You have fitted in so well. Welcome!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelie C</td>
<td>4F</td>
<td>For settling in beautifully, wanting to learn and generally contributing to all elements of class. Well done Ums!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucia M</td>
<td>5/6B</td>
<td>For starting the new school year with enthusiasm and an eagerness to learn. Your efforts are much appreciated Lucia!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Class</td>
<td>Notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------</td>
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<td>-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Darcy M</td>
<td>5/6B</td>
<td>For making such a positive start to the school year in the way he goes about his studies and the way he interacts with others. Great role model Darcy!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice C</td>
<td>5/6C</td>
<td>For being a St John’s ‘Waste Warrior” and keeping our school environment free from rubbish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben A</td>
<td>5/6C</td>
<td>For settling into our St John’s and facing each day with a smile and very positive attitude. We are so happy to have you back at our school and we hope that you have a wonderful year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zara B</td>
<td>5/6C</td>
<td>For being a St John’s ‘Waste Warrior’ and keeping our school environment free from rubbish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah B</td>
<td>5/6C</td>
<td>For being a St John’s ‘Waste Warrior’ and keeping our school environment free from rubbish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Declan C</td>
<td>5/6C</td>
<td>For demonstrating deep thinking during our reading sessions by making interesting inferences about the book ‘Crow Country”. You have begun Year 6 with a very positive and enthusiastic attitude. Keep up the wonderful work, Dec!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grace E</td>
<td>5/6C</td>
<td>For being a St John’s ‘Waste Warrior’ and keeping our school environment free from rubbish.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamie D</td>
<td>5/6S</td>
<td>For your energy and consistent contributions to class discussions. You are always having a go and keeping conversations interesting for all.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alyssa V</td>
<td>5/6S</td>
<td>For going above and beyond what is required. You extend yourself without being asked and inspire those around you to do the same. Well done!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sport News - Steph Doutre, Sport & Physical Education Teacher**

**Swimming**

The last trial for swimming will be held tonight from 4-5pm at Northcote swimming pool. A reminder, if you came last week it is not compulsory for you to come this week. However, if you would like to try and beat your time you are welcome to come again. The District Swimming Sports are next Wednesday 25th of February at Northcote pools from 9am - 12:30pm. The team will be finalised by this Friday and notes sent home then.

**Inter School Sports**

In Term 1 games will be on Friday mornings from 9.15am -11am. We have home games with Volleyball, Bat Tennis and girls Softball held on the school grounds with Cricket and boys Softball held at Heidelberg Park.

After 2 rounds of Inter School Sport the ladder is as follows: Cricket - 1st, Volleyball Girls – 9th, Volleyball Boys – 2nd, Softball Girls – 6th, Softball boys – 6th and Bat Tennis Girls 8th.

This week we have a home game against Alphington Primary School. Good luck to all those playing and have fun. This week we have a focus on working well together as a team, learning to lose with good sportsmanship and winning with grace.

**Netball**

Winter inter school sport starts in Term 2 for Grade 5 and 6’s with Netball being one of the major sports for girls to play. We have two teams in the competition. I am looking for coaches to be available on Friday afternoons from 1pm -3.20pm every week of Term 2. If you are interested in coaching please email me sdoutre@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

Have a great week.
Hi everyone,

We hope you had a fantastic week; the children certainly got up to a lot at OSHC this week! We broke out the paint during the week and made some amazing ‘Firework’ paintings, and some remarkable paint fold-overs where the children painted their designs and folded the paper to create crazy effects! We also had a lot of fun making some fantastic origami creations and we even tried to reboot our garden by planting some sunflowers!

I am currently in the process of requesting and collecting medical documents so if you know your child attends OSHClub and has a medical document that might be expiring soon (such as Anaphylaxis or Asthma action plans), if you could please have those ready for me to collect that would be fantastic!

If your child/ren are absent from school or other arrangements are made for them, could you please let us know that they will not be attending after school care. On the day cancelations/bookings must be made with a phone call or text to the program number on 0401 333 932.

You will not be able to make online bookings or cancelations on the day. Online bookings or cancelations can be made up until midnight the night before.

We hope to see you at OSHClub!

Enjoy the rest of your week 😊

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NEXT WEEKS ACTIVITY</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before Care Activities</td>
<td>Acorn Buddies</td>
<td>Amazing Body Facts</td>
<td>Playdough Making</td>
<td>Name It Ball</td>
<td>Alligator Handprint</td>
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<tr>
<td>After Care Activities</td>
<td>Stop Motion Film</td>
<td>Paddlepop Stick Construction</td>
<td>Colour Changing Milk</td>
<td>Honey Joys</td>
<td>What is the Colour Wheel?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Parent Information**

OSH program phone: 0401 333 932  
Coordinator: Trent Harkom  
Assistants: Recruiting  
OSHClub Head Office: 03 8564 9000  

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.
15 February 2015 (Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B)

**Jesus could no longer go openly into any town!**

Mark continues to talk about Jesus’ healing miracles; in today’s gospel passage Jesus is approached by a man with a skin disease. The first reading from the book of Leviticus reminds us that people suspected to be suffering from skin diseases were isolated from the community; they were thought to be contagious and therefore a danger to the rest of the members. The sick man in today’s reading had not been able to live with his family or friends, but had to live in the desert, away from any inhabited town or village.

The sick man approaches Jesus and asks to be healed; this in itself is a sign of the man’s faith. Jesus has the power to heal this man (a power the Old Testament attributes to God alone), and is also willing to heal him; Jesus therefore extends his arm, touches the man and heals him.

What follows the healing story is a bit strange: Jesus tells the man to show himself to the priests, as required by the Torah, but not to tell anyone about how he came to be healed. Jesus was concerned about how people were seeing him; he did not want people to come to him because of the miracles he was performing, but because they believed in the Good News he was preaching. (Some old versions of Mark’s gospel indicate that Jesus was agitated, angry.)

A final comment by Mark that needs to be noted is that, since the man who had been sick did not obey Jesus’ instructions, and instead started talking freely about his healing, Jesus could no longer go openly into any town or village because people were flocking to him to be healed; and this was angering the Jewish leaders. When Jesus touched the sick man, the latter was healed and could return to his family and friends, but now it seems that Jesus had taken upon himself the man’s isolation from community and had to avoid towns and villages!

The second part of this gospel story indicates that this incident is not being narrated simply to show that Jesus could heal skin diseases, but because there is a teaching to be learnt. The man with the skin disease represents us in our sinful humanity. Like the sick man who had to distance himself from the rest of the community, sin cuts us off from our sisters and brothers. Jesus came to heal, not only our physical sickness, but also our spiritual illnesses and sins. Like the man in today’s story we need to have faith in Jesus and not be afraid to approach him asking for healing. Jesus will always reach out to touch us and heal us of all our sins.

In fact Jesus came to take upon himself all our sins and nail them on the cross; this is the full story of the incarnation. As we start Lent this week and start our meditation on the passion and death of Jesus we see him suffering like a criminal and feeling abandoned by the Father. Jesus enters into our sinful humanity and into the isolation our sin brings upon us. He reconciles us with the father, experiencing the isolation of sin; in the words of the prophet Isaiah (53:4), Jesus bears our infirmities and carried our diseases!

Today’s gospel is another very positive invitation for us sinners: there is no need to be afraid of God, God is always ready to forgive us our sins. All that is required of us is to ask to be reconciled. Lent is a very opportune time to celebrate this reconciliation with God.

Fr Mario
**PARISH PRAYER**

Heavenly Father, we the parishioners of St John’s are grateful for all we have received from the men, women and children of our past. Help us to cherish and maintain our parish heritage.

Most of all, enable us to be people who welcome the stranger, the needy, the sick and the lonely. Like St John, our patron saint, may we be people who love others, as your Son Jesus, asked us to do. We make this prayer, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

14th / 15th February 2015 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Yr B

Dear parishioners, visitors and friends,

This Wednesday we start our season of Lent. We mark the beginning of Lent by smearing ashes on our foreheads. Ashes can be a very powerful symbol; they can be both a sign of destruction and a powerful symbol of renewal.

In the Australian bush, fire clears up the undergrowth, allowing fresh air and light to reach the floor of the forest. This is essential for new growth to happen. Moreover, when the old leaves and bark is burnt off, chemicals are released into the soil, enriching it and enabling it to produce new life.

For us Lent can be a time to put new light into our faith journey; at the end of Lent we start again by renewing the vows of our own Baptism and promise to journey more faithfully.

A question we need to put to ourselves as we start this season of Lent is: how do I nourish my faith today? There are many resources that can help us in this, the Church invites us to prayer, charity and fasting.

Prayer: go to Mass, pray in the family, visit a Church, read the Bible, pray the Stations of the Cross, pray the Rosary;

Self-Denial: not eating meat, sweets or dessert, giving up entertainment to spend more time with the family, limiting food and drink and give the savings to give to the poor (Project Compassion is a major means of expressing self-denial in Australia);

Helping Others: visiting someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or over burdened (St Vincent the Paul and other agencies can help in this);

Wishing you a holy Lent!
Fr Mario

**Making Connections**

How powerful that action of Jesus is: “Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him.” The love and compassion behind that gesture is almost palpable. It is unlikely that the leper had experienced the intimacy and acceptance of human touch for a long time.

This week, reach out and touch someone who needs a sign of acceptance or a gift of compassion.

**Please Remember in your prayers**

**The Sick:** Doreen Booth, Adrian & Bernice Clifford, Geraldine Gannon, Stephen Marsh, Jason Marsi, M J McCann, Kelvin McNaughton, Adam Plaia, Nick Snow, Paul Sullivan, Elizabeth Vardon & Bev Wales.

**Anniversaries:** Martine & Leigh Hewatt, Celestina Kong, Kazimierz Radzikowski, John Filippi.

**Recently Deceased:** Ema Amnis.

Names on the Sick List remain for six weeks, unless otherwise advised. Please submit any items for the newsletter, including sick, recently deceased and anniversaries, by Thursday morning latest. Thank you.
**Rosters for the weekend: 14 / 15 February**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Sat 6:00pm</th>
<th>Sun 8:30am</th>
<th>10:30am</th>
<th>5:00pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Reader</td>
<td>Zen Zebrowski</td>
<td>Mary Harty</td>
<td>Elizabeth Williamson</td>
<td>Rosemary Vecchie</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd Reader</td>
<td>Peter O'Donoghue</td>
<td>Brendan Harty</td>
<td>Lesa Meese</td>
<td>Mary Kotefski</td>
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**Rosters for the weekend: 21 / 22 February**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1st Reader</th>
<th>2nd Reader</th>
<th>Communion</th>
<th>Counters</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rose-Marie Auguste</td>
<td>Tom Campbell</td>
<td>Pauline Manovella</td>
<td>15 February</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John McGrath</td>
<td>Ronnie Maloney</td>
<td>Margaret Thomas</td>
<td>22 February</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clare Newsome</td>
<td>Joan Vandenberg</td>
<td>Kate Mathai</td>
<td>Paul DeStephanis, Mark McCarthy, Peter Symes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bernadette Nzenza</td>
<td>Des O'Brien</td>
<td>Leela Cherubim</td>
<td>Perc Makin, Matt Symes, Tom Tyrrell</td>
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**Collection Weekly Average for January**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Thanksgiving</th>
<th>Presbyterian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Envelopes</td>
<td>$2,908.50</td>
<td>$634.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Loose</td>
<td>$698.60</td>
<td>$348.75</td>
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**Heidelberg Co-ordinator**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>February 2015</th>
<th>March 2015</th>
<th>Joan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Envelopes</td>
<td>$9459 3889</td>
<td>$9459 3889</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Thank you to everyone who supports St John’s financially.**

Please advise the parish office if your credit is lost/stolen or your credit card number or expiry date has changed.

**Austin Hospital Mass**: will be celebrated this Sunday. Volunteers please meet at 8:30am for 9.30am Mass at the Chapel. Parishioners are also invited to participate in this Mass to minister to the sick by their presence. Thank you.

**Ash Wednesday**: This Wednesday 18 February we start Lent with the celebration of Ash Wednesday. Masses with the celebration of the ashes will be celebrated at 9.15am and 7.30pm. A special Mass will be celebrated for the school children at 12 noon; parents are welcome to attend.

**ASH WEDNESDAY is a day of fasting and abstinence.**

**Gold Coin Collection**: The January Gold Coin Collection for the charities supported by the parish amounted to $919.30. Thank you for your generosity. Our next Gold Coin Collection is on the 21 & 22 February.

**Parish Charities in 2015**: our monthly Gold Coin collection will be in aid of the activities of the Church in Syria. We have heard many distressing news about the struggles of the Catholic Church in this country and we hope that our small contribution will be of help to them. To read more about this you can visit: www.aidtochurch.org or pick up a ‘Mirror’ newsletter from the porch of the church.

**Project Compassion - Food For Life**: This Sunday we launch this year’s Project Compassion appeal. Project Compassion boxes and envelopes are available to help us in our contributions. Charity is an important way to prepare for Easter. Our contributions help those who are less fortunate than us. Each week we will be printing stories about people who will be benefitting from our contributions. Please pick up a copy of each week’s story from the porch.

**Parish Working Bee - Garden maintenance**: We call on men and women who would like to get involved in a Working Bee to help keep the gardens in our parish clean. The first working bee will be held on Saturday 7 March. We meet at the parish house at 9.00am. RSVP if possible: Rodney 0402 898 583. All welcome.

As we prepare for Lent, a celebration for the **burning of the palms** for Ash Wednesday will be held at the primary school this Monday 16th February at 2:30pm.

**Lectio Divina during Lent**: As we journey through Lent to Easter, two sessions of Lectio Divina will be offered in our parish: Mondays at 7.30pm and Fridays at 10.00am starting this Monday 16 Feb. During these sessions we gather to listen, reflect and pray on the Word of God, allowing God’s Word to continue to take root and influence our lives. All are welcome to join.

**Stations of the Cross**: During the Fridays of Lent we will meet at 7.30pm to pray the traditional prayer of the Way of the Cross, in preparation for the celebration of the Lord’s passion and death.

**Applications for year 7 2016 at OLMC Heidelberg close** on 27 Feb 2015. School tours are being held on 9 & 13 Feb between 9.00am and 10.30am, and on 24 Feb between 4.30pm & 6.00pm. Enquiries: College Registrar, Merri’O’Halloran, T: 94592511 E: mohalloran@olmcheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

**Applications for Year 7 2016 at Marcellin College** close on 27 Feb 2015. It is the responsibility families, not the primary school, to submit an application. A Parent Information Evening for Year 7 in 2016 will be held on 17 Feb at 7.00pm. Enquiries College Registrar on 9851 1589 for information or visit www.marcellin.vic.edu.au

**First Healing Mass** for 2015 is this Thursday, 19 February at Our Lady Help of Christians Church, Henry Street, Eltham. The evening commences with Praise & Worship at 7.30pm, followed by Prayer Ministry and supper after Mass. Contact Emilia (9435 7475) or Sandra (9434 7553).

**In Home Care**: now available through Respite Now. Aged care and disability specialists. Contact Jane or Greg Millard on 0403 577 827 or email info@respitenow.com.au. Visit our website for more information www.respitenow.com.au.

**Free Individual Counselling**: Contact Julie Jensen on 0411 241 005 or julie@changesinbetween.com
Banyule Calisthenics Club
Do you enjoy singing, dancing and acting?
Then this is for you.
Classes are held on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon evening in Lower Plenty
Catering from the age of 3yrs to mature adults.
Contact banyulecalisthenicsclub@outlook.com or visit our website www.banyulecalisthenicsclub.com.au
First two classes are FREE!!!!

The children’s protection society op shop needs you!

Do you have a spare three hours each month to support the CPS’ innovative local community programs which help vulnerable children and families?

Why not experience the satisfaction of volunteering at our busy, clean, organised and awesome op shop!

It's a cheery, social shop where you'll meet people, make friends and be part of a Rosanna institution that over the past 30 years has raised more than $1m so families can provide a safe, nurturing environment for their kids.

To be a part of something special contact Nicole on 0403 258 046, pop in anytime (we're at 43 Beetham Parade next to Miss Marie cafe) or find us at www.facebook.com/CPSOpShop.

We'd love to meet you!

The Marcellin Eagles Basketball Club forms part of the Eastern District Junior Basketball Association (EDJBA)
We are a family orientated club that looks to develop its players, with both Girls and Boys teams from under 8’s to under 20’s. With just over 30 teams we pride ourselves on knowing and developing the individual within a friendly team environment.
Courts are at Marcellin College, 160 Bulleen Road, Bulleen. Training nights are Monday and Thursday.

Register now on-line at http://www.marcellineagles.basketball.net.au
Winter Season 2015 starts Saturday 18th April, 2015

**Early Bird Registration Fee (19th Feb - 2nd March 2015)**
$100.00 1st Child
$70.00 2nd Child
$45.00 3rd and subsequent children

**Regular Registration Fee (2nd - 10th March 2015)**
$110.00 1st child
$80.00 2nd child
$55.00 3rd and subsequent children

Registration closes 10th March 2015.
Note: Registrations made on or after 10th March MAY be accepted at the discretion of Co-ordinators to balance team numbers (placement in a team is not guaranteed).

Endorsed by Kylie Coen President MEBC

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**AFL Super Rules for over 35’s**
Your local club the Diamond Valley Bears (www.dvrsfc.com) is looking for new players.
We have 4 teams - Over 35’s, Over 40’s, Over 45’s and Over 50’s.
We play 11 games a year, and only play every second week.
If you are interested in getting fit, having a kick, and enjoying a great club atmosphere call James McIntyre on 0410 436 084 or email dvbearsfc@gmail.com.
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Below are the nominations for the two vacancies for the School Advisory Council. The appointment to this position is for two years.

Voting closes at 4pm on Tuesday, 24th February.

Your vote should be placed in an envelope marked ‘S.A.C.’ and returned to school office.

**Adrian Daly:** Alexandra (Year 3) and Liam (Prep)
As a teacher who has taught at both primary and secondary level, completed a Masters in Educational Leadership and held leadership positions at two different Catholic schools, I believe I have much to offer the School Advisory Council.

As an active member of St. John’s parish for seven years, and parent of St. John’s students since 2012, I have come to cherish my family’s involvement with the parish and school communities. School leaders, staff and students impress me with their love of being part of such a vibrant, engaging learning community.

I hope that my own experience, as a teacher, parish member and parent, allows me to make a meaningful contribution to attaining the school’s vision of being a faith-filled community of compassion and excellence.

**Kim Vespa:** (Joseph - Prep V)
Our family was so thrilled to commence at St John’s in 2015.

With two boys, one in Prep and the other in Pre-Kinder, St John’s will now be at the centre of our world for the next 9 years.

Becoming a Parent Rep on the Student Advisory Council appeals to me because I am passionate about creating a positive and nurturing environment for children.

I hold a degree in Psychology and spent most of my career in Corporate HR where I was involved in lots of committees, policy creation and contract negotiations, and the implementation of numerous projects and leading new ways of thinking.

Since having children I have run my own business and currently work part-time as an Operations Manager. I am honest, reliable and hardworking and would promise to serve the school community to the best of my ability.

**Shane Borg:** (Mackenzie - Year 2)
I am eager to play an active role in our children’s education and development and in turn look forward to representing parents and families as a community to continue ongoing growth.

With my 20 plus years of professional experience in working closely with businesses, I am willing to assist with the further development of the school, community and welfare of students.

With a diverse group of parents and families amongst us, via the School Advisory Council, I feel we can continue to build and maintain a stronger regard of education and wellbeing for our children and their families.
Voting Form for School Advisory Council

Voting closes at 4pm on Tuesday, 24th February.

Your vote should be placed in an envelope marked ‘S.A.C.’ and returned to the school office.

You are to vote for TWO members.

I wish to vote for (please print) ..........................................................

I wish to vote for (please print) ..........................................................