Dear Parents,

SCHOOL ADVISORY COUNCIL
I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who nominated for places on the School Advisory Council. It's wonderful to see such enthusiasm and willingness to contribute to the life of the school.

I am delighted to advise you that Kim Vespa and Adrian Daly have been elected to the School Advisory Council and we congratulate them both as they commence their two-year appointment.

They will now join Justin Lachal, Gaby Hermans, Robyn Laurie and Ben Tighe as the parent representatives on the School Advisory Council.

On behalf of the community I would like to extend my sincere thanks to the outgoing members, Michelle Robertson and Yvette Vonier for their wonderful support and contributions during their time as members.

IVANHOE DISTRICT SCHOOL SPORTS ASSOCIATION (ISSSA) SWIMMING CARNIVAL
As I write this Newsletter, many of our children are taking part in the IDSSA swimming carnival I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the children who were selected into this year's Swimming Squad. I would also like to thank ALL the children who trained and participated and who unfortunately missed out on selection on this occasion.

My thanks to the parents who made arrangements to ensure their children were able to take part in the 'selection trials' and to all those parents who assisted at the trials.

We hope that every member of the squad enjoys their day and swims to the best of their ability.

Good luck everyone!!

To live for Christ in faith is to live for our neighbour with love.

May we see Christ in those who are in need and help them in the spirit of Jesus who came among us ‘as one who serves’.

From the Principal

25 February 2015

Edition 4 - 2015
**SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS – TUESDAY, 10th MARCH**

A reminder that the annual School Photographs will be taken on Tuesday, 10th March.

Summer uniforms **MUST** be worn by all children. Children who have sport on Tuesday may change into their runners for their P.E/Sports Lesson on that day.

A reminder that all children with shoulder length hair must have their hair tied back as is required in our School Uniform Policy – no exemptions!

‘Advanced Life Photography’ order envelopes have been sent home and instructions for ordering photographs are on the envelope. Spare envelopes are kept at the office if necessary and sibling envelopes can also be collected from the office.

If not ordering online, order envelopes should be returned **NO LATER** than Friday, 6th March.

**LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY AND EARLY DISMISSAL**

A reminder that the school will be closed on Monday, 9th March for the Labour Day public holiday.

Students will be dismissed at 1.50pm on Tuesday 10th March due to staff training.

**2016 PREP ENROLMENTS – SIBLINGS - URGENT REQUEST**

Enrolments for siblings who are starting school in 2016 are now open!

Sibling Enrolment forms are available from the office. Please indicate to the office staff that you require the **sibling** Enrolment Form if you are collecting your enrolment form from school.

**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.**

**ENROLMENT FORMS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN FRIDAY, 13th MARCH.**

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.

As you know, there is always a strong demand for places at St John’s so it is very important that Sibling Enrolment forms are **completed and returned to school by 13th March.**

**KEY ENROLMENT DATE FOR YEAR 6 STUDENTS IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MELBOURNE**

Please note, that if you are enrolling your child to a Catholic Secondary School you must apply directly to that College.

The **CRITICAL DATE** that applications close to a Catholic Secondary College is the 27th February. Parents are usually notified of offers during April.

Applications to Government Secondary Schools are made directly from the Primary School and follows a different timeline to those followed by the Catholic Secondary Schools.

Applications for Government Secondary Schools are provided to Primary Schools in the first two weeks of March and will be distributed to ALL Year 6’s once they are received.

**Prep Literacy Information Evening for Literacy and Numeracy**

My thanks to those parents who attended last week’s Prep Information Evening. This information evening was a wonderful opportunity to be able to hear about Literacy and Numeracy; the approaches that are currently undertaken in the classroom and some insights to what parents can do to also enhance literacy and numeracy learning in the home environment.
**BETTER BUDDIES DAY**
What a wonderful day we all had last Thursday for our Better Buddies Day. Many values were highlighted throughout the day eg caring for others, respect, including others. A full report is included in this newsletter.

Several highlights of the day included all the children forming a gigantic smiling face! And the spectacular teacher led ‘Mob Dance’ at the end of the day!

I would like to thank all the teachers for the great way they supported the day and for the great work that they did with their children.

I would like to especially thank Mrs Carolyn Walsh in her capacity as Student Well Being Leader for coordinating such a successful day.

**IMPROVING COMMUNICATION - EMAIL ADDRESSES**
We are seeking to improve our communication processes across our school community. This will include information that may occasionally be sent from our special interest groups such as the P.I.C, parent helpers, Kids Matter etc. One way of doing this is through email.

Please provide us with your email address using the tear off slip below. Please note if you already receive the Newsletter by email, there is no need to provide your email address again.

Yours sincerely

Nick Marinelli, Principal

Email Address - Please complete and return to the school office

Name: .......................................................................................................................  

Email Address: ..............................................................................................................  

Eldest Child’s Name: ........................................................................................................  

Class: ......................................................................................................................
"Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." Pope Francis

Caritas Australia is the Catholic agency for international aid and development. They help people to help themselves, regardless of race, political beliefs, gender or religion.

Caritas Australia works hard to make sure that as much aid as possible actually reaches those who need it. The administration/aid ratio of Caritas Australia is one of the best in the world. They keep their administration and fundraising costs at or below 10% of their income.

Each Lent, as a school community, we make a commitment to raise money for Project Compassion.

This year we have chosen to raise money so two farmers in Nepal can attend a 'Farmer Field School' to enable them to go to training sessions where they learn new techniques and organic farming practices.

We are aiming to raise approximately $1000 to make this happen. The money from Pancake Day has given us a brilliant start to raising this amount. There will be one other fundraiser in March - more details in next week’s newsletter.

Ideas for Lenten practices at home

During Lent what can your family do to follow Jesus Christ’s way of praying, loving and giving? A couple of suggestions follow:

- Give up one fast food meal during Lent and put the money you would have spent on it in your family’s Project Compassion Box.
- As a family pray together, for example, Grace Before Meals
- As a family give up television for an evening and do something together.
- Pay a visit to the church after school with your child/children.
- Make one Friday ‘No meat day’ during Lent.
**Class Masses Term 1**
Please note there were some discrepancies in the dates below last week. The following are the correct dates.

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

*These mass dates and times are correct at the time of publication. Sometimes unforeseen circumstances occur to change these dates/times.*

Thank you for your presence at class masses in the past. The children love you to be there. Each class attends a weekday parish Mass once a term. When attending your child’s class Mass we ask that you sit beside your child within the class group. The class will be seated in the first two or three seats on both sides of the church. Ideally it would be best if you met the class at 9.00am outside the church prior to Mass. All Masses are at 9.15a.m.

**First Reconciliation** (Grade 3)
Thursday August 6th August Grade 3 Williamson
Thursday August 13th August Grade 3 Polichovski

God bless you and your family.

Elizabeth Williamson
(Education in Faith Leader)

---

**BIRTHDAYS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb 26</td>
<td>Gus T</td>
<td>4F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 27</td>
<td>Mackenzie B</td>
<td>2P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 28</td>
<td>Annabel B</td>
<td>3P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1</td>
<td>Hugh L</td>
<td>3W</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Zara V</td>
<td>PV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Anny L</td>
<td>1L</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>March 2</td>
<td>Preps commence Full Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>March 9</td>
<td>Labour Day Public Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>March 10</td>
<td>School Photos Students Dismissed 1.50pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Student Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Award</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tusunee D</td>
<td>PN</td>
<td>For always being willing to help others. What a generous nature you have.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saree M</td>
<td>PN</td>
<td>For teaching us about Chinese New Year. Thank you Saree, a great effort!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marc R</td>
<td>PN</td>
<td>For following instructions with a happy face. Well done Marc!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonardo T</td>
<td>PV</td>
<td>For being good at doing things for yourself. Keep up the great effort!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cleo F</td>
<td>PV</td>
<td>For coming to school with a big happy smile. Keep up the super effort!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charlie B</td>
<td>1L</td>
<td>For your amazing attention to detail when creating your 'Family Tree' art Piece. Beautiful art work!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giuliano P</td>
<td>1L</td>
<td>For taking so much care with his handwriting. All of your letters sit so beautifully on their lines. Keep it up!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sienna A</td>
<td>1T</td>
<td>For always demonstrating kindness to other students. We are so lucky to have you in 1T!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oscar P</td>
<td>1T</td>
<td>For the positive attitude he brings to the classroom everyday and for always having a go at everything.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zara B</td>
<td>2D</td>
<td>For your enthusiasm shown at our Mathematics Marshmallow Challenge. I'm very excited that you took it home and worked on it with your family. Keep up your hard work and efforts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas C</td>
<td>2D</td>
<td>For your enthusiasm shown at our Mathematics Marshmallow Challenge. I'm very excited that you took it home and challenged your brother and sister. Well done and keep up your hard work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aidan M</td>
<td>2P</td>
<td>For the positive and responsible way he has conducted himself this week. You are developing your leadership skills which is a great asset to our class. Congratulations!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amelie B</td>
<td>2P</td>
<td>For challenging herself to think 'outside the box' in Mathematics. Well done Mathematician Amelie - keep it up.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasmine L</td>
<td>3P</td>
<td>For being a wonderfully co-operative and focussed student. You are truly the model student Jasmine, don’t ever change.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lucas A</td>
<td>3P</td>
<td>For showing us some great mathematical thinking. We just love the strategies you use to assist in completing maths tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Olivia B</td>
<td>3W</td>
<td>For your brilliant start to the new school year. You co-operate with your classmates, listen well and are most helpful.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thomas V</td>
<td>3W</td>
<td>For the way you can explain the various strategies you use in maths. Very impressive!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ella C</td>
<td>4C</td>
<td>For her attitude and positive thinking to make a room happy and a positive place to be - well done Ella!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David M</td>
<td>4C</td>
<td>For his great mathematical thinking he displayed in ALL our pre tests—what a thinker you are David! Well done.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michael D</td>
<td>4F</td>
<td>Fantastic collaboration in a team project. Well done persisting to continue with your task and not giving up when others had. Keep it up, Michael!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madeline T</td>
<td>4F</td>
<td>For working well on her Australian travel writing, finding out information and helping her group. Great job Madie!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia R</td>
<td>5/6B</td>
<td>For showing great sportsmanship during a long bat tennis match at Inter School Sport. You made our school very proud Georgia!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alex D</td>
<td>5/6B</td>
<td>For the enthusiastic way he goes about sharing his thinking with others. Keep it up Alex!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Student Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lucy B</td>
<td>5/6C</td>
<td>For beginning the school year with a very positive and enthusiastic attitude. You have already begun fulfilling your role as one our School Captains with grace and pride. You are a admirable role model, Lucy!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony C</td>
<td>5/6C</td>
<td>For being a leader and key contributor to all class discussions, particularly during mathematics. You share your thinking with confidence and you're never afraid to have a go. You have such a positive attitude towards your learning. Keep up the great work!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jacob F</td>
<td>5/6S</td>
<td>For a fantastic start to the school year. You have been a role model to your peers in class when you display your listening skills and use of initiative. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eleanor P</td>
<td>5/6S</td>
<td>For your expert questioning during reading. You have shown your understanding of texts in class with your inferences which is great to see.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Sport News - Steph Doutre, Sport & Physical Education

Swimming
This Wednesday is the district swimming carnival. It will be held at Northcote swimming pool. A big thank you to all children who trialled over the last couple of weeks. It was so great to see such a big turn out. If you didn't make the team there is always next year to have another go! Good luck to all competing on Wednesday have fun and try your best.

Inter School Sport
Last week we played Alphington Primary School in a home game. It was a very hot day but fantastic sportsmanship was displayed by both schools! Congratulations to all teams, we had wins from the cricket team, both volleyballs and both softballs. How wonderful! Our girls bat tennis team had their most successful round as well! Well done girls!

Each week we will hopefully have a sport reports from a different sport this week we have a report done by the boys softball team. Thanks boys. Report is below.

This week we have an away game against Ivanhoe Primary School. All sports at school except cricket will be played at Seddon Reserve. Good luck to everyone!

Netball: if you are interested in coaching the netball teams in Term 2 Friday afternoons please email me with your experience at sdoutre@sjheidelberg.catholic.edu.au

Have a wonderful week everyone!

Boys Softball Report - St. John’s vs Alphington Primary
The Boys softball team versed Alphington primary school on Friday the 20th. We walked down to Heidelberg park. While we waited for the Alphington primary school team, we practised pitching and fielding before we started.

The First Innings
In the first inning, the pitcher was Anthony and backstop was James. Anthony did his best pitching and everyone did great fielding. It was then our turn to bat. The other team practised pitching before they fielded.

James Cahill was the first batter and nearly got a home run, but had to stop at 3rd base. Declan Csar sneaked to 3rd base. Declan got the 2nd home run and James got the 1st. Patrick Csar did a sneak to 2nd base. James hit the ball far and we got 3 home runs in a row out of it. Everyone obeyed the rules and the first innings went really well. There was also good sportsmanship. Then we just ended the first inning and going to start the second.
The Second Innings
Alphington primary was the first to bat. Their batting was really a great thing to see. John Nguyen was trying to tag someone but he kept dodging.

But in the end John tagged him. That ended the second innings. Declan was the first to bat. Declan did a sneak as well. Declan got the first home run. Pat did some sneaking and eventually got a home run. Joseph and Cristian both got home runs and that was the end of the second innings.

The Third Innings
This time James was pitching and Pat was backstop. Then we started the third innings. They then got a home run. Some people did foul balls. Now it was our turn to bat. Declan was the first one to bat. But when he batted he got out on first base. John did a sneak when Eadric Manuel was the batter. But, unfortunately we all got out for zero runs in the third innings.

The Fourth Innings
Alphington primary just got out twice already and they are safe on third. Alphington got all out for zero and now it's our turn to bat. Luca was the first one to bat but Luca got out. Cristian is in and he hit a great shot and is now safe on first base. Joseph is now in and he smashed it and Cristian went out on third base and Joseph is safe on first. Anthony hits the ball but Joseph got tagged and is out.

That's the game!

Overall everyone showed great sportsmanship.

St John's :12 v Alphington primary:9

It was a close match.
Alex, Edward, Massimo and Jamie.

Ken Marshall is back at St John’s to tutor children for the 2015 School Ball. He has been teaching dancing at St John’s Primary School for many years and regularly teaches dancing in over 25 primary schools in the north eastern suburbs of Melbourne, reaching up to 1000 children each week. However, there is so much more to Ballroom dancing than an annual School Ball.

Ken’s own dancing school, ‘Absolutely Ballroom’ is a DanceSport Australia accredited Registered Training Facility and in addition to coaching competition couples, he also has social dance classes for children and teenagers right here at St John’s Hall on Friday evenings.

Dancing is a lot of fun, and at the entry level, there is no special requirement for costuming or shoes, nor any obligation to enter competitions or examination classes. It is just for the enjoyment of dancing.

If any children at St John’s would like to join the fun and learn ballroom dancing as an after school activity, the Junior social dance class is conducted every Friday evening from 6pm until 7pm. The social dance class for Teenagers is from 8.15pm until 10.30pm.

Ken also has a social dance class for Adults on Tuesday evenings from 8.00pm until 10.30pm at ‘Jubilee Hall’, at the Holy Name School in Robb Street, Reservoir.
For more details, just give Ken a call on 0419 308 642.
KidsMatter Better Buddies Day

Last Thursday the whole school participated in our first official Kids-Matter event for the year: “KidsMatter Better Buddies Day” The purpose of the day was to support the Preps and the new students in their transition to our school - to ensure they feel welcome and safe and build familiarity with the school environment. It was also an opportunity for all students to build positive relationships across the school, enhancing their sense of belonging and connectedness.

The children were organized into cross age groups and participated in various activities which focused on the KidsMatter motto “Every face has a place”. In the first activity each teacher selected a picture story book which highlighted the concept of belonging and designed a follow up activity to explore this concept.

Then to celebrate the official launch of KidsMatter, the whole school formed a smiley face – under the direction of Mr Marinelli, who also managed to take the high vantage photo! After this we all had lunch on the oval with our new school buddies.

After lunch two art activities were completed – a ‘getting to know my buddy’ pair activity and then self portraits (which have been used to make a whole school display in the LRC)

During Assembly in the afternoon, the Yr 6s introduced their Prep buddies to the whole school and representatives from the KidsMatter SAT reflected on the day….. Just when we thought it was all over, suddenly, to the tune of “Happy” the teacher’s FLASH MOB appeared! It wasn’t long before the whole school was up and dancing joyfully to finish off our wonderful day.

The teachers were delighted with the kindness and care the older students displayed towards the younger ones throughout the day. Lots of fun was had by all (including the teachers!), many new friends were made and important messages were learnt about belonging to our school.
Here are some highlights according to the students in Yr 4C: meeting new friends, having a mixture of age groups, the activities, the stories, having different teachers, the picnic altogether, working with the younger ones and with old friends, chatting to lots of people, the Flash Mob! The students felt included, valued and also reported that the playground ‘felt different – felt together’
Cleo F

My favourite part was the big smiley face.

Madeline W

My favourite part was my buddy giving me my teddy.
I liked when the teachers danced and the kids joined along.

Charlie

I liked it when everybody's dancing.
ST JOHNS PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS, SHARE YOUR EXPERTISE!

We need your help to help maintaining our school grounds.
If anyone is, or has contact with fencers, electricians, landscape gardeners or anyone in the shade business, please contact me:

Ivanka Barritt on 0425 175 556 or email on ivankar@technologyoptions.com.au
**Family Mathematics Challenge 1 - Answer**

![Diagram of ice cream combinations]

**Family Mathematics Challenge 2**

At your party you have decided to serve triple decker ice creams!

* There are 5 yummy flavours - peppermint, chocolate, strawberry, banana and tutti frutti.

* How many combinations of three flavours could you create?

* How many combinations of three flavours could you create if one flavour is always chocolate?

* How many combinations all together (including 3 scoops the same, 2 the same and one different)?

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.
More exciting news: Peak Cycles have donated prizes for our event. To get your Golden Ticket, simply Ride On!!

Know how to do a bike check? Follow 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 sponsored by Peak Cycles. Ride On!

www.bicyclenetwork.com.au
https://twitter.com/peakcycles
Pancake Tuesday Update..................................

We would like to thank the following volunteers for their hard work and dedication to getting all the children fed!

The school raised $553.30 for charity.


Pancake Tuesday Reflection - Students from 2D...........

Today my class went to get pancakes. They were so good. I put maple on mine, we ate them in the classroom. I was so lucky to get three pancakes. ‘Yum Yum in my tum!’ I love eating pancakes. They smell really good. I think they are amazing.

Matthew

On Pancake Tuesday I had three delicious pancakes. I have to say they were good and yummy. I loved it they were scrumptious. I went first I had sticky hands and a messy face. I washed my hands and face then I was all clean.

Sarah

Pancakes alive!.... One day when it was Tuesday, we had some pancakes. I was the last one to get some. We went back into the classroom. I took a bite of my pancake and it came back again. It was really weird. I saw an eye and then a mouth. It was a pancake face. It had legs and arms and it was running away!

Zara

The run away Pancakes ............. Once upon a time there was a girl named Ella. She was walking on the path and smelt fresh pancakes. She fund pancakes. She got a pancakes and she was about to eat it. Suddenly the pancake came to life and it ran away fro Ella. She had to get the pancakes. She wanted to have just one. She ran and ran around the world. She was so tired she went to the shops to get a drink. She got her energy back and ran again. She finally caught the pancake!

Stefania

Catholic Development Fund - CDF Student Banking

Teach your child the good habit of regular saving....with CDF Student Account

Student banking will commence from next Tuesday, 3rd March and continue every Tuesday thereafter.

Children who wish to open a school banking account may collect a CDF Student Banking Application Form from the school office.
Hi everyone,

Last week at OSHClub was so great; we got up to so much fun stuff! The children made some amazing “wool octopi”, we did a lot of baking (the children made one of the most amazing chocolate cakes we’ve ever tasted!) and we did some amazing art by using cut up pieces of fruit as stamps for the children to use in their paintings! We’ve also begun to rejuvenate our OSHClub vegetable garden by planting some tomatoes and carrots this week (to go with our currently sprouting sunflowers from last week!) which we hope to expand with variety of fruit and veggies!

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 afterschool 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 😊
Father Mario’s Sermon

22 February 2015 (First Sunday of Lent, Year B)

Genesis 9:8-15; Psalm 24:4-6,7-9; 1Peter 3:18-22; Mark 1:12-15.

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the wilderness to be tested!

In our first reflection during this Lenten pilgrimage towards Easter, we are invited to reflect on the image of Jesus in the wilderness. (The first reading would also make a very interesting reflection reminding us of our Baptism.) Mark presents us with a very succinct yet interesting landscape: Jesus tempted (or tested) by Satan, with the wild beasts and looked after by angels.

Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days. In the Old Testament we read about Moses and Elijah who were also in the wilderness for forty days; the wilderness is a place where people go to meet God. In Jesus’ case, immediately after his Baptism, he was driven by the Spirit into the wilderness.

There are a number of other images conjured by this passage. The people of Israel spent forty years in the desert, where their faith in God was tested; both Jesus and the people of Israel are called Sons of God. In the book of Genesis Adam is surrounded by the animals which God brings to name them; Jesus among the beasts is the new Adam heralding a new creation. Psalm 91:11 tells us that God “will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways” (see also Luke 4:11); Jesus is the Son of God and he too is looked after by angels! Finally the Christians reading this gospel have the image of Nero’s persecutions clearly in their minds, where fellow Christians were daily been thrown to the wild beasts.

To all these images I would also like to remind us of the image of the ashes used on Ash Wednesday, especially from within the context of the Australian bush. In the Australia ecology fire is necessary to clear the undergrowth, the old bark and the dead branches, in the process nourishing the soil by releasing chemicals back into it. This cleansing makes it possible for new growth to happen; it takes a fire to persuade the gum tree to open its pods and let go of its seeds!

I suggest that Lent for us should be a mixture of all these images; we are once again being driven by the Spirit into the wilderness where our faithfulness will be tested. But the wilderness is not empty; it is a space where God can meet us and re-create us. Lent is a time of fasting; we fast from food and from activities that fill our lives. Some activities we might as well burn in order to create space and in the process to nourish ourselves with new life. Once we enter into this wilderness we need to ask ourselves where is God in all this? How and where can I meet God anew in my life? What new life can I introduce into my life and into the life of my family and my community?

Lent is a time for new growth for rediscovering God’s message in my life. Jesus encourages us to ‘Repent and believe the Good News’. First I need to be open to listen to and let the Good News to take deep roots of my life. As a Christian I need to be guided daily by God’s Word. Then I need to re-focus my daily activities onto God. The true meaning of repentance is to place God, once again, at the centre of my life.

In Baptism we were given a white dress and encouraged to keep it white till the end; we were given the flame of faith and encouraged to keep it burning brightly till the end. As we journey through life very often we manage to stain our white dress and our flame flickers and maybe at times is blown out. Lent is a time to renew our commitment, wash our white dress and rekindle our candle of faith.

Wishing you all a Happy and Blessed Lenten Journey!

Fr Mario
ST JOHN’S CATHOLIC PARISH
52 Yarra Street
HEIDELBERG

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. 

21st / 22nd February 2015 - 1st Sunday in Lent Yr B

Dear parishioners, visitors and friends,

Last Wednesday we started our Lenten journey, forty days preparing us for the celebration of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus and the renewal of our own baptismal vows on Easter. This is a time for us to start again and renew our willingness to be sincere and faithful followers of Jesus.

The gospel today tells us that the Spirit took Jesus out into the wilderness where he was tempted. The wilderness is a barren space where Jesus goes to pray. Lent is the time for us to go into the wilderness, not by leaving our family homes and work but by taking on an attitude of emptiness and silence.

During Lent we are invited to fast and do penance. When we fast we typically eat less; we do not necessarily go hungry but we only eat what is necessary for us. We can also fast from activities and the business that goes on around us every day of our life. During this time the church removes flowers and extra decoration from its buildings; this arid look becomes a visual image of fasting.

We need to fast in order to make space for new growth to happen in our life. As we find more space in and around us, we are invited to fill that new found space with Godly activities of charity and prayer. As individuals and as families we need to continuously make more space for God in our daily lives.

We also need to reach out to people around us. Here at St John’s we have got some very beautiful ways how to do charity: Heidecare volunteers offer their time to help the frail, St Vincent the Paul Society volunteers reach out to those who are poor, other volunteers offer ministry at the Austin and Repatriation hospitals. How can I grow and give of myself to others?

Fr Mario

Making Connections

The image of the desert evokes thoughts of confronting life in all its rawness. The starkness of the landscape of the Judean wilderness is almost overwhelming. In the desert, it is easier to identify what is really important in our lives. Lent symbolically invites us into the desert, to reflect on what is really important and to live more simply in closer union with God.

What comforts and distractions make it difficult for you to follow Jesus’ way? Can you dispense with these for 40 days of Lent? Can you, instead, take on additional tasks or disciplines to assist you in walking with God?

Please Remember in your prayers

Newly Baptised: Caileen & Tae Hollis, William Watts & Ava Zaccaria.
The Sick: Doreen Booth, Geraldine Gannon, Jason Marsi, Bev Wales, Nick Snow, Adrian & Bernice Clifford, Liam Hall [Foote], Stephen Marsh, M J McCann, Kelvin McNaughton, Adam Piaia, Paul Sullivan & Elizabeth Vardon.
Anniversaries: Brian & Michael Hankin, Stanley Cunningham, Antina Piersmarini, Maria Lauretta, Brian Smout, Catherine Cummins, Maureen Packer.

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: 21 / 22 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>Rose-Marie Auguste</td>
<td>John McGrath</td>
<td>Clare Newsome</td>
<td>Rosemary Vecchies ***</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Reader</td>
<td>Tom Campbell</td>
<td>Ronnie Maloney</td>
<td>Joan Vandenberg</td>
<td>Des O’Brien</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rosters for the weekend: 28 Feb / 01 March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>22 February</th>
<th>01 March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st Reader</td>
<td>Renee Chung</td>
<td>Max Chester</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd Reader</td>
<td>Samuel Chung</td>
<td>Eric Floyd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communion</td>
<td>Barbara Lonergan</td>
<td>Margaret Thomas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Collection Weekly Average for January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Envelopes</th>
<th>Envelopes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thanksg</td>
<td>$2,908.5</td>
<td>$694.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbytery</td>
<td>$698.60</td>
<td>$342.75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Heidelcare Co-Ordinator

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

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

Gold Coin Collection: for our parish charities in Syria will be taken up this weekend.

Parish Charities in 2015: The Parish Pastoral Council has suggested that during 2015 the monthly Gold Coin collection goes to the 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 you can visit: www.aidtochurch.org or pick up a ‘Mirror’ newsletter from the porch of the church.

Morning Tea: will be available in the Parish Hall after 10:30am Mass next Sunday 1st March. Please join us!

Easter Hamper Raffle: in aid of our parish charities. We are looking for donations of Easter eggs and chocolates to go into our Easter hamper. This will be raffled off for Easter. Proceeds go to the parish charities. Please place donations in the container in the porch.

Project Compassion - Food For Life: 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. This week we remember people in Fiji.

The Way Prayer Group invites you on A Journey to Freedom, a 4 week Bible Study providing freedom from “Egypt”, purification in the “Desert” and an invitation into the “Promised Land”, at 8pm Thursday 26th February, 5th, 12th & 26th March at Our Lady Help of Christians, Henry St, Eltham. $20 fee covers course materials. Supper provided. For details contact Emilla 9435 7475, Sandra 9434 7553 or Rose 9434 3962. Please register by Monday 23rd February.

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.

Parish Working Bee - Garden maintenance: We call on men and women who would like to get involved in a Working Bee to help in the maintenance of the church gardens. 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.

St John's Liturgy Committee: The Liturgy Committee has a very important role in the life of the parish as it works to enhance the worship of the community. Its role is to better organise our celebrations. Our Liturgy Committee is seeking new members to join and be part of this ministry. For information please contact Fr Mario.

Lectio Divina during Lent: As we journey through Lent to Easter, Fr Mario is leading two sessions of Lectio Divina in our parish: Mondays at 7.30pm and Fridays at 10.00am. 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. Sessions will be at the parish house meeting room. 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 2016 at OLMC Heidelberg and Marcellin College close on 27 Feb 2015. Enquiries: OLMC Merri O’Halloran, T: 94592511 E: mohalloran@olmc头皮berg.catholic.edu.au Marcellin: College Registrar T: 9851 1589 for or visit www.marcellin.vic.edu.au

Free Individual Counselling: Contact Julie Jensen on 0411 241 005 or julie@changesinbetween.com

There has been a great response to the Seasons for Growth - Understanding Change, Loss and Grief seminars with all four programs fully booked. Additional seminars have been scheduled for Thursday 5 March and Thursday 12 March from 6pm to 9pm in the St John’s Parish House Meeting room. Information flyers are located in the church foyer. To reserve your place please contact Julie Jensen on 0411241005 or email julie@changesinbetween.com
Dear Parents,

St John’s Primary School will be running our Easter Raffle again for the students. All money raised from this raffle will go toward purchasing resources and materials for the children.

We are requesting Easter Egg donations from each family so that we can make up raffle prizes for each class!

If you are able to assist us, can you please place your donation in the Easter Egg Donations box in the office by Friday March 20.

Any questions, please contact Gabby Vincent 0414 247 260 or Kylie Gazzola 0412 529 204.

We appreciate your generosity and support!