Reflection

Trust in the Lord

During the Advent Season we prepare joyfully for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. Let us place our trust in God as we acknowledge His presence amongst us.

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact, that I thing that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so. But believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it. Therefore I will trust you always though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.

Let us pray to God in whom we place all our trust.
Loving God, be with us this day and always, so that all we do will be in accordance with your will.
We ask this Jesus’ name, Amen.

Dear Parents/Carer’s

This will be the final newsletter for the year. It amazes us all, just how quickly the year slips by and how, all of a sudden, all the children are ready to move onto the next year of their schooling. We have much to thank God for.

Our year together has been very positive. The children and the staff have all worked very hard, with very pleasing results and our year has been very happy, with wonderful highlights along the way.

Over the next two weeks we look forward to having the opportunity to farewell our year 6 students that we are so proud of, thank the many people who have contributed so much to Annunciation throughout the year, celebrate the successes of all the children and celebrate the season of Christ’s birth. We have a busy and exciting fortnight ahead of us.

Monday Dec 8th - Yrs 4/5/6 TrySail Activity in Williamstown
Wednesday 10th - Final Swimming lesson.
Thursday 11th - Carols Night/ Christmas Raffle
Monday 15th - Reports sent home.
Tuesday 16th - Puffing Billy – school picnic day
Year 6 Graduation Mass and Ceremony (7p.m. start)
Wednesday 17th - End of Year Mass at 10a.m.
Final Assembly at 12:15p.m.
Children dismissed at 1:00p.m.

AFTER SCHOOL CARE
I am pleased to announce that we will trial an After School Care program in 2015. We have the names of 7 children who will regularly use the service (5 days a week), and a number of casual users. All together we are hoping that the service will be viable. We have applied for registration and this can take up to 90 days, but we hope to start very close to the beginning of the school year. The service will operate between 3:30p.m. and 6:00p.m. Monday to Friday, during the school term. There will be more information at the start of next year.

CAR PARK SAFETY
Can I remind all parents and carers of the need for patience and care when driving in the school car park. We had an incident recently where a car got extremely close to a parent who was walking through the car park.
CAROLS NIGHT
On Thursday 12th December, we will be having a Carols Night, to be held in the Community Room. The children under the guidance of Mrs. Hall, have been working very hard learning carols for the night. It is expected that all children attend this night together with parents and special friends. The night will begin at 7.00pm and hopefully will conclude by 8.00pm. We are looking forward to seeing you all there, as it is a great way to end the year and celebrate Christmas.

LAST ASSEMBLY – Announcement of 2015 Student Leaders
At our final assembly of the year, at 12:15p.m. on Wednesday December 17th, the new student leaders for 2015 will be announced. We would especially like to invite the parents, and other family members, of each of the year 5 students to come along.

SCHOOL FEES:
As the end of year is fast approaching, it would be appreciated if you could bring your accounts up to date immediately. Last statements have already been sent. If you are experiencing any difficulties or to wish to discuss the matter, please call and make an appointment with Barry Ennis.

50th ANNIVERSARY
Next year, Annunciation will be celebrating our 50th Anniversary. There will be quite a few activities planned next year and more information will be sent home as appropriate. We are hoping to put together an Annunciation Cookbook, which will be made up from favourite family recipes, tips and hints. As this takes a lot of work to compile, we are asking families now for their contribution. You can either send in your favourite family recipe (can be anything from entrée, mains or desserts) with your child or you can email to Connie in the office - ccornwill@asbrooklyn.catholic.edu.au. Your recipe can be submitted by anyone. Please help get this off the ground and start sending them in.

ANNUNCIATION CHRISTMAS RAFFLE
The Christmas raffle this year will be drawn on the Carols Night on Thursday 11th December. Could you please make you return your tickets by this date. If you require more tickets please see Connie at the office. Also don’t forget to send in your donations towards the raffle if you haven’t already done so. Below is a list of suggested donations.

So that we don’t receive too many of the same item we have decided to allocate each grade a “category” from which to purchase and donate. The categories are as follows:

Grade Prep/1:    biscuits, lollies, chips, chocolates, cordial, canned goods etc.
Grade 2/3:      christmas decorations, wrapping paper, cards, bonbons, baubles, etc.
Grade 4/5/6:    Nuts, fruit mince, christmas condiments, mince pies, tarts

Of course any donations you may want to make will be gratefully accepted. When you send in a donation could you please check the use by dates. Other donations besides food, will also be gratefully accepted.

VINNIES CHRISTMAS APPEAL
How you can help Victorians in need this Christmas?

Our Christmas Gift Appeal assists people and families in need who, without our support, may not experience all that Christmas has to offer. We prefer donations of gifts rather than food so that those in need get to enjoy unwrapping presents. Vinnies already takes care of their nutritional needs through specially designed hampers that are distributed before the big day.

All donations can be left at the school office. Thankyou.
Media Release | 27 November 2014

Day of Solidarity with Christians of the Middle East - Sunday 7 December 2014

Sunday 7 December 2014 has been designated a Day of Solidarity with the Christians of the Middle East by the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference.

The Australian Bishops received a letter of request from the Conference of Bishops and Representatives of the Middle Eastern Apostolic Churches in Australia and New Zealand seeking the support of the Australian Catholics.

The Conference unanimously supported the request that 7 December 2014 be a Day of Solidarity, involving prayer and a financial offering to help alleviate the suffering of Christians, especially the many Iraqi refugees.

The request comes as we approach the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ at Christmas. We are aware that the situation for Christians and other minorities in the Middle East is deteriorating by the day, especially as the northern winter will set in soon.

Communities that have been present in the region since apostolic times are being driven out in the midst of unspeakable atrocities. The present tragedy in the Middle East not only impacts upon the communities of the area, but has far-reaching implications for the peace and security of the world.

Considering the widespread significance of the crisis, we are inviting all Catholic communities to join with us on 7 December 2014 as we ask for the mercy of God for our persecuted brothers and sisters in the Middle East.

Archbishop Kassab the Chaldean Archbishop said, “All the Christians of Iraq desperately need our prayers and support. These, our wounded brothers and sisters, were brutally forced to leave their hometowns and all their belongings in order to remain faithful to Jesus Christ”.

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference urges Australian Catholics to join their Christian brothers and sisters of the Middle East in showing the world that while “some trust in chariots and horses, we trust in the Lord, our God” (Psalm 20:7).