Principal’s Message

Sadly this is my last newsletter at St Joseph’s. I cannot believe that sixteen years of service has come to an end! I have had many great years here at Narrabeen and have worked with a fantastic, dedicated and wonderful group of teachers and support staff. I have met many great families over the years and of course, I will never forget the great children I have had the pleasure of teaching. I thank you all for your support this year and throughout my time here.

Many events for next year have been planned and dates are being added to the website calendar. There are two staff days planned in April which will extend the autumn holidays by a day and then give you an extra long weekend as well. Please check these next week when all known dates will be uploaded.

Year 6 are having there farewell graduation liturgy this evening in the church. As part of the liturgy there is a video that captures their years at St Joseph’s. For the parents and children who won’t be at the liturgy, you have the opportunity to view this on Thursday morning after assembly in the Library. Best wishes to Year 6 as they venture off to high school. Our blessings also to those families who are leaving St Joseph’s.

As a school, we rely greatly upon the goodwill of parents in volunteering their time to assist with the various events that happen during the year. These include carnivals, canteen, clothing pool, excursions, Fun Fair and reading, to name just a few. As a sign of our appreciation and to thank you for your support throughout the year, a small gift is being sent home today.

Once again, I thank you for your support and friendship over the time that you and your family have been at St Joseph’s. I wish you all the very best for the future and I hope you have a very peaceful and holy Christmas and a healthy New Year for 2017.

God bless

Michael Gallagher
Sunday’s Gospel Quote

This is how Jesus Christ was born. A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David’s family. But before they were married, she learned that she was going to have a baby by God’s Holy Spirit. While Joseph was thinking about this, an angel from the Lord came to him in a dream. The angel said, “Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after her baby is born, name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.” So the Lord’s promise came true, just as the prophet had said, “A virgin will have a baby boy, and he will be called Immanuel,” which means “God is with us.”

4th Sunday of Advent Matthew 1:18-24

Religious Education News

Advent

We are now in the third week of Advent. We are reminded of the joy that Christ’s birth and coming into the world, brought too many with the lighting of the third candle which is pink. Joy has many shades. It should never be determined by how we feel, but on who God is.

Third Sunday of Advent

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<td>Light three candles on your Advent wreath. Pray for somebody who is sad.</td>
<td>Mum or Dad to take you to visit church during this week, to light a candle and say and pray.</td>
<td>Send a special card to somebody who is feeling sick or sad.</td>
<td>Do a household chore with a smile on your face.</td>
<td>Give yourself a pat on the back for the Advent step you have taken so far.</td>
<td>Say a ‘sorry’ prayer to God for something you shouldn’t have done.</td>
<td>Pray a decade of the rosary. The second joyful mystery.</td>
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St Vincent de Paul- Christmas Appeal

Last week the Social Justice Team collected all the items that were donated to each classroom over the past two weeks. From these items we were able to create sixteen hampers filled with Christmas treats and supplies. These hampers have been given to Tom Coleman our local St Vincent de Paul officer to be shared with those in need within our community. We also put together and counted donations that were shared with the school to a total of $81.50.

We thank you for your generosity and donations to this very needy cause.

End of Year Mass

As the year draws to a close it is a great time to come together and celebrate our faith, while reflecting upon the years events and sadly farewelling Miss Cronin, Mrs Gualtieri, Mrs Wark and Mr Gallagher.

Please join us for our End of Year Mass;

Date: Friday 16th December 2016
Time: 12:00pm
Where: St Joseph’s Church

All members of the community are invited to be a part of this celebration and we hope that you extend the invitation to all extended family and friends.
Religious Education News Cont’d

Christmas Masses at the Lakes Parish
The Lakes Parish invites all parishioners, St Joseph’s School families and friends to take part in any of the community’s faith-filled celebrations at this significant time for our church.

Christmas Eve - Saturday 24th Dec
• 4.00pm War Vets Chapel
• 5.30pm St Joseph’s - Family Mass
• 5.30pm St Rose - Family Mass
• 8.00pm St Rose - Carols commence 7.30pm

Christmas Day - Sunday 25th Dec
• 8.00am St Rose
• 9.30am St Joseph’s

There will be no Midnight Mass this year, and no Sunday evening Mass.

Christmas Lunch - Sunday 25th Dec
Fr Rex invites you to The Lakes Parish Hall, on Christmas Day, between 12 and 2pm. Link: Fr Rex’s Christmas Lunch Invitation - The Lakes Parish Hall 21 Lagoon Street, Narrabeen on Christmas Day 12-2pm.
This invitation is not meant only for Catholics, but for anyone who might like to join us.
As a family, we celebrate Jesus’ birth together. I would also like to share this Christmas with others who, like me, may be far from their families.
Some people might otherwise spend Christmas alone. For others, family gatherings are not so easily arranged. There are lots of reasons why you might like to come, and particularly to bring a guest.

Stef Thom (REC)

Office News

Reminders:
• Students Leaving - School Leaver’s Form (Primary) Link School Leaver’s Form.

• Lost Property Box is overflowing with uniforms, jumpers, lunch boxes, hats etc. This week will be the last week to claim any lost property.

• Please make sure all school items are labelled clearly for the start of 2017. Thank you.
School News

2017 MAI Assessments
Once again we are holding assessments before school commences in 2017.
Bookings will be held on Monday 30th of December for half an hour commencing from 8:30am till 3:30pm.
The booking system is now open for Years 1-6.
If your child misses out on a time, they will be assessed at school early in the term.

Year 1-6 Interview Times 2017:
Year 1-6 parents are required to login to school interviews and follow the following steps.
- Enter the Event Code: cn6x6
- Select Correct Class.
- Select day and time

Parish News

During the year The Lakes Parish has been hosting the Alpha Course, a program that is designed to reinvigorate your life and revaluate your own faith. The course will be run again next year in the parish and is open to our school community too. You can find out more about Alpha by clicking on this link
https://youtu.be/p9eI8I4cRBg or you can contact the Parish Office on 99821058.
Lakes Parish Alpha team

Community News

- Stella Maris College Manly Link- Applications for Year 7 2018 Academic and Performing Arts Scholarships opened 1st Dec and close 22nd February 2017
- Go4Fun Link- A Free 10 week program for kids aged 7 to 13 years and their families to be come fitter, eat healthier and improve their self-esteem - Pittwater Sports Centre Tuesdays 4.30pm-6.30pm
- Goodwins Tennis Academy Link- School Holiday Program
24th December (Saturday)

4pm War Vets Chapel

5.30pm St Rose Church Christmas Family Mass

5.30pm St Joseph’s Church Christmas Family Mass

(Children are invited to dress up as Angels or Shepherds for the 5.30pm Christmas Eve Masses)

8pm St Rose Church (Carols commence from 7.30pm)

25th December (Sunday)

8am St Rose Church

9:30am St Joseph’s Church

No Evening Mass