

Dear Parents,

This coming week we celebrate the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, on the 8th December. Many people have the misconception that this refers to the conception of Jesus. In fact, it refers to the conception of Mary. From this moment that she came into existence, God knew that she was to be the vessel to carry the saviour of the world. It was part of God's salvation plan for us. Mary was so special that she was born without original sin. For this reason, she is often referred to as 'the new Eve'. It is this state of 'immaculate conception' that we remember and revere each year on this feast day.



Congratulations

to the following students who are this term's recipients of the Principal's Award:

Jack Finch Ethan Tierney Sofia Costa Isaac Castellán Isla Orahim Kobe Coombes Janiya De La Cruz Charlotte Anderson Alivia Turner Natalie Holopikian Dante Merrin Brayden Stoddard Sofia Silva Oliver Vrljic Thomas Dobaj Malachi Cauchi William Blazey Rex Finch Ashton Stacey

I look forward to spending morning tea with them on **Wednesday**.

Please note the following significant dates for the rest of the term:

Week 9:

- **2017 SRC Elections** School (Monday 5th Dec) and Sports House (Wed 7th Dec) Captains Speeches and elections; Class SRC elections are done in the new year.
- Wednesday 7th Dec: **Principal's Morning Tea; Year 6 Graduation** and awards presentation, supper
- Thursday 8th Dec: Feast of Immaculate Conception
- Thursday/Friday: classes moving into new building (we hope)
- Friday 9th Dec **Year 6 fun day**

Week 10:

- Monday 12 Dec 9-10am: **meet the teacher for 2017** – current and new students only; 2.15pm: **thank you afternoon tea for all parent helpers**.
- Tuesday 13th Dec **8am Bootcamp Breakfast** (Bootcampers only)
- Wednesday 14th Dec: **Christmas Social** (parents byo nibbles and drink) 5.30pm and whole school concert at 6.30pm- this year's **Christmas Concert** will be facilitated by Andrew Chinn. The students will be presenting items in their class groups so it is an expectation that all students attend this special occasion. The concert will be held in the church (thank you Fr Warren).
- Thursday 15th Dec: 9am Whole school **End of Year Mass** followed by farewell of staff
- Friday 16th Dec: Last day of school for students – **Motiv8 fun day**.



Grazie Tutti!!

who helped out on Italian day

Especially thank you to Mrs Micallef for organising the event and all the parent helpers. As well as having lots of fun, we raised an outstanding \$1,273.00 that will go to the Catholic Mission.



Sunday 4th December: 2nd Sunday of Advent-Year A (Matthew: 3:1-12)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

In due course John the Baptist appeared; he preached in the wilderness of Judaea and this was his message: 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.' This was the man the prophet Isaiah spoke of when he said:

A voice cries in the wilderness:
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight.

This man John wore a garment made of camel-hair with a leather belt round his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judaea and the whole Jordan district made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. But when he saw a number of Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism he said to them, 'Brood of vipers, who warned you to fly from the retribution that is coming? But if you are repentant, produce the appropriate fruit, and do not presume to tell yourselves, "We have Abraham for our father," because, I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. Even now the axe is laid to the roots of the trees, so that any tree which fails to produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown on the fire. I baptise you in water for repentance, but the one who follows me is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to carry his sandals; he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fan is in his hand; he will clear his threshing-floor and gather his wheat into the barn; but the chaff he will burn in a fire that will never go out.'



Reflection: In Matthew's Gospel this Sunday, we hear John the Baptist asking people to repent and be forgiven for their sins to help prepare the way for the coming of Christ. We are asked to prepare ourselves during Advent to head towards the celebration of the Nativity. We are waiting and preparing for the presence of God in our world. God became incarnate in the world through Jesus but also always was and continues to be incarnate in the world through each person. To prepare for Advent, we can go without something just like in Lent for the 4 weeks of Advent, prayer as a family, receive the sacrament of Reconciliation and give to others who are lonely, homeless or in despair. It is the gift of giving that warms our hearts and brings the true meaning of Christmas. Following in Jesus' mission, 'To Love one another as I have loved you.' (Liturgy Help, 1-12-2016)

This prayer, which beautifully picks up the themes of the readings as a whole, can be read together as a family for reflection.

God,
there is no other source
of comfort and peace than you,
you alone.
You alone are mercy and justice.
You alone have called me beyond myself
to proclaim your coming.
My path is filled with distractions,
but you call me to see forward clearly,
to unclutter the way
and build a highway for you –
singing all the way!
Every day this Advent,
may I answer faithfully to you
and be the bold prophet
that you ask each of us to be.
Help me be more daring
than I have ever been before,
to withstand ridicule and mockery
and risk everything

that is comfortable and easy.
While the roadway may be dangerous,
the finish line is victory unsurpassed!
You come into my life
and take away my fear.
You lead and feed me
with all that I need.
I hear what you announce to me –
peace, kindness, truth
and justice.
All you have promised,
and all comes from your hand.
May I know your strength
while I prepare your way –
safe travel for all of us.
Amen.

(Haas, *Praying with the Word*, pp. 16–17)

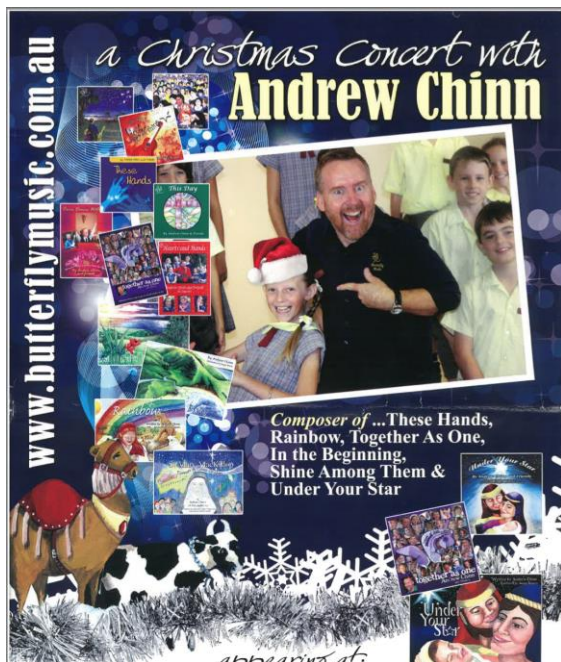


CHRISTMAS EVE CHILDREN'S MASS 24th December @ 5.30pm in the OLA church

We need volunteers to participate in the Nativity play on Christmas Eve. If you are attending the 5.30 pm Christmas Eve children's Mass, can you please Email the office Attn: Mrs Byrne with your children's names, so I can choose children to participate in the Nativity play. Can you please Email before Tuesday 6th December, as I will be choosing children for the roles and running through the play on Tuesday.



OLA Christmas Concert/ Carols



On the 14th December, Andrew Chinn singer/songwriter will be spending the day with OLA students teaching them songs to sing at the 6.30pm concert/carol night. Each grade will be singing the songs they have been taught during the day and will be supported by the choir. Students will gather in the church around 6.15pm and will be sitting in their grade groups in the church. They will be then called up to sing their songs.

Bishop's Office

Xt3 Advent Calendar

This year's Xt3 free Advent Calendar looks at the Nativity scene through the eyes of a child. The website and app contain videos, meditations and podcasts for the Christmas season. Available on the First Sunday of Advent: www.xt3.com/advent

Formation in Themes of Faith

This guided exploration of key components of Catholic life is designed for people who are keen for mutual conversation and prepared reflection – no prior formal studies in faith are required. The Institute for Mission partners with the Institute of Faith Education (Archdiocese of Brisbane) in offering this program. Participants complete the Institute of Faith Education's Beginning Theology course. An engaging collection of provided readings are the stimulus for the group to further explore the Catholic faith. The process helps participants in their competency and ongoing growth regarding several key areas of life in faith: God (themes of Spirituality and Trinity), Word of God (themes of Scripture, Old and New), People of God (themes of Church, Sacrament and Spirit) and Living in God's Love (themes of Catholic teaching and living). Applications close 11 December. Details: <http://www.ifm.org.au/themesoffaith>

Mass for the Holy Innocents: 28 December

The principal celebrant for the 23rd annual pro-life Mass will be Sydney's Bishop Richard Umbers. Mass at 11am at Our Lady of the Rosary Parish, 8 Diana Ave, Kellyville, followed by a rosary procession to the Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents for devotions and benediction. Everyone is welcome to pray for the protection of all human life (especially the unborn) from conception to natural death. A luncheon will be provided – please bring a plate to share. Inquiries (02) 9629 2595.

Girls' Camp at Mount Schoenstatt: 11-14 January 2017

Girls aged 10-12 are invited to a three-day camp at Mt Schoenstatt. We will explore how our faith connects with our everyday lives. Program also includes prayer, craft and fun activities. From 4pm on Wednesday 11 January to 4pm on Saturday 14 January. Venue: Home of Light, Mt Schoenstatt, 230 Fairlight Rd, Mulgoa. Cost: \$110 (includes food and accomm). RSVP: Monday 12 December (registration form and deposit required). Inquiries: Sr M Luka 0439 537 843, sr.m.luka@bigpond.com

Mass for World Day of the Sick: 9 February 2017

Everyone is welcome to this annual Mass in acknowledgment of carers and those for whom they care. Includes the Sacramental Rite of Anointing of the Sick and Prayers for Healing. Bishop Vincent Long will be the principal celebrant for Mass at 10.30am in St Patrick's Church, 51 Allawah St, Blacktown. Plenty of parking – refreshments to follow.

Literacy News

Executive Director's Summer Reading Challenge

These summer holidays, Mr Greg Whitby is again launching his Summer Reading Challenge to encourage all students to read, read, read! Students can read anything they like to enter the challenge, whether it's a comic, play, poetry, book, e-book or novel. This year there is no minimum number of books to read and there are more chances of winning a prize.



Bug Club Update

Bug Club Digital has transitioned to a new platform, ActiveLearn Primary. This means that to log into Bug Club you'll need to go to:

www.activelearnprimary.com.au

The student's username and password will be the same; however you will also need to enter our new school code. The code is unique to our school. ActiveLearn Primary will remember our school code so you should only have to enter this once. The school code for Our Lady of the Angels is **sxlh**

Please let me know if you have any queries.

Lisa Hurst

Literacy Coordinator

Uniform Shop News

The uniform shop is now located behind the canteen area, opposite the new Year 3 classrooms.

Hours are **Tuesday 8.20am – 9.30am.**

Uniform orders can be left at the office, through the notebag, via email or over the phone at any time throughout the week, and they will be filled on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please **DO NOT** ask for a hat or any other item first thing in the morning, as the shop is now not easily accessible and we will not be able to supply it.

The last day for trading for 2016 will be Tuesday 13th December.



Thank You!!!

The staff at OLA would like to thank you for your help in the classroom, on excursions, with book covering, special treats and all the other ways you contribute to our wonderful school. Please attend the **Parent Thank You Afternoon Tea** on Monday 12th December at 2.15pm. We look forward to seeing you there and thanking you for your help.

From the Classroom of....KG

Splish, Splash!

This week we have had lots of fun at swim school! We are learning survival skills and practising our swimming strokes. We are enjoying being in the cool water during this hot weather, and we love the bus trip each day too!!



Term 4 Week 8			
Whole school			
Student	Academic Merit Award	St Francis Award	Einstein Award
Kinder B	Clyde Naidu	Leah Ocampo	Mia Lesar
Kinder G	Gabriella Fedele	Anna Lee	Ben Parsell
Kinder W	Grace Wallis	Jordan Nobleza	Sybellah Arora
Year 1B	Danielle Vella	Olivia Ross	Seth Orton
Year 1 G	Sophia Iori	Natalia Zahorsky	Lucious Cappello
Year 1W	Malachi Rangan	Georgia Dolahenty	Addyson Stoddard
Year 2 B	Charlotte Muscat	Marcus Farrugia	Milla Price
Year 2 G	Cohan Sommer	Madison Zahra	Justin Medjumurac
Year 2 W	Lara Kelly	Ava Carney	Sienna Dixon
Year 3 B	Joshua Streater	Luke Shelly	Grace Bennison
Year 3 G	Noah Ribeiro	Denzel Chang	Marc Skoljarev
Year 3 W	Marcus Castellan	Arya Clements	Bowen Cleary
Year 4 B	Charli Molloy	Alannah Lock	Lara Caraos
Year 4 W	Ayden Strong	Zachary Sprowles	Harry Taylor
Year 5 B	John-Paul Colosimo	Kylan Ewer	Thomas Dobaj
Year 5 G	Nicola Topic	Aria Guglielmi	Amelia Dimech
Year 5W	Ariane Maher	Karl Fischer	Sophia Tapley
Year 6 B	Isabelle Douehi	Javier Silva	William Anderson
Year 6 W	AJ Abdallah	Claudia Pacella	Angus Misek

By a Bracelet or Band: Help the Poor

Year One have been learning about how we can be the face of God. We have decided that we would like to raise money for the poor, but we need your help.

On **Wednesday 7th December**, Year One will be selling bracelets and bands on the basketball court at second break. The bracelets and bands will cost \$1 each. All the money that we raise will go to helping people around the world who don't have enough money to live.

Please help them by buying a bracelet or band this Wednesday.



**Principal
Award
Recipients
Term 4
2016**

"Christmas at the Shrine"

Fun for the whole family with a Christmas Carol Sing Along, Blessing of the Baby Jesus, Sasuage Sizzle, Face Painting , Christmas Craft Booth , Soccer Fun and Games, Christmas Raffle, Christmas Tea and a visit from Santa Claus

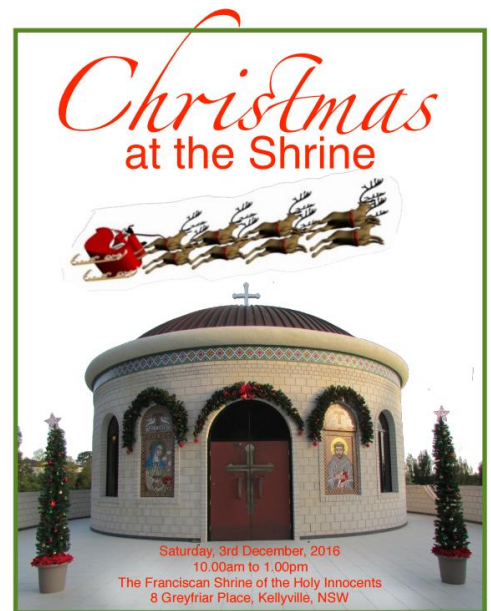
Saturday, 3rd December, 2016

10.00am to 1.00pm

The Franciscan Shrine of the Holy Innocents

8 Greyfriar Place, Kellyville, NSW

Please park at the Our Lady of the Rosary car park (8 Diana Av.) and walk next door to the Shrine.



From the Parish Office...

Reconciliation - Year 2

Congratulations to all the children who are currently doing their First Reconciliation.

All enquiries: parishoffice@ourladyoftheangels.org.au

First Friday Mass and Adoration

Today is the First Friday of December (and the last of the year).

You are invited to come along to Mass and Adoration at 7pm. There will be a light supper afterwards.

Gingerbread House Making

Please contact the office if you are interested in attending this night. Saturday, 17 December at 7.30pm. You get to assemble and decorate your own yummy Gingerbread House. Bookings are essential. Cost: \$40

Parish Christmas Party

All families are invited to come along to our Parish Christmas Party on Sunday, 18 December.

Food and drinks for sale.

Youth Christmas Party

All Students in Year 6 are invited to come along to the Youth Christmas Party - please contact Faith for further information, youth@ourladyoftheangels.org.au

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

5.30pm Children's Mass.

12.00am Midnight Mass with Christmas Carols from 11.30pm

Christmas Day

8.30am & 10.00am ****NOTE: There will be NO 5.30pm mass on Christmas Day****

House Blessing As we begin this new Liturgical Year, in this season of Advent, you are invited to think about having your house blessed. Fr Warren is available to attend to your family home and bless it. For all appointments contact Fr Warren on 8883 4063.

Mass times:

Sat vigil: 5:30pm **Sunday:** 8:30am, 10am & 5.30pm. **Weekdays:** Mon -Sat: 9 am

Confessions:

9:30 am Sat

Baptisms & weddings: By appointment

Parish Priest: Fr Warren Edwards

Parish Secretaries: Geraldine Farrugia and Rose Sultana

Sacrament Co-ordinator: Christine Leahy

Email: parishoffice@ourladyoftheangels.org.au

Website: www.ourladyoftheangels.org.au

Contact information: O.L.A. Parish Office, 1 Wellgate Avenue, Rouse Hill

Ph: 8883 4063 **Fax:** 9629 7603