Sunday November 27 - First Sunday of Advent

Gospel Reflection

The first Sunday of Advent sees the commencement of the new liturgical year. This new liturgical cycle is referred to as Year A and features the gospel of Matthew. (Year B features the gospel of Mark and Year C, that we have just completed, features the gospel of Luke.)

Advent comes from the Latin word *Adventus* which literally means ‘coming’; it is also reflected in the Greek word *Parousia*, which is used to describe the second coming of Jesus. So Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation of the coming of Christ into the world that is celebrated in the Nativity at Christmas. The gospel passage chosen for today’s reading richly expresses that anticipation and need for preparation.

It may seem a little confusing that we begin our year-long exploration of the gospel of Matthew by taking a reading from chapter 24. However, the need for readiness and alertness that Jesus speaks about in relation to the coming of the Kingdom is equally suitable for a modern audience when preparing to celebrate once again the coming of Jesus into the world. Jesus is the best expression of the Kingdom that we have yet experienced and so rather than seeing the choice of this passage as a confusion, we should recognise the alignment that exists between the anticipation of the Kingdom and the anticipation of the Nativity.

The two great feasts of Christianity – the Nativity and Easter – are each preceded by a period of preparation: Advent and Lent. The emphasis of these seasons is on the mental and spiritual preparation to fully enter into one of the great mysteries of faith. In the Nativity, we celebrate God becoming human; God present in the world in a physical way. Advent is a time to remember the many and varied ways that God continues to be present in the world.

Jesus, as Joseph and Mary experienced, being associated with You is full of the unexpected, for You take people in their lives to where they would not have chosen to go. Help us not to be afraid but to be people of courage as we live Your values and reflect Your image. Amen.

Peace and Best Wishes.
Graduation /End of year Mass – Awards Presentation:
The Year 6 Graduation is marked by two events at the end of each year. This is our opportunity to wish our Senior Year 6 Students farewell and to offer them our best wishes as they enter the next phase of their education at Secondary School. The End of Year Mass at St Therese Church commences at 10:00am on Wednesday December 7. At this Mass, awards will be presented to those students who have shown leadership and community spirit, from the Lions Club, Lodge of the Great Ocean Road and the Knights of the Southern Cross. The two Principal and Staff awards will also be presented at the end of this Mass. All awards will be re-presented at the Graduation evening on Monday December 12. This will give the whole school community, including children from other year levels, the opportunity to congratulate the students at the Mass. The Graduation evening will afford the parents another opportunity to formally farewell our Year 6 students. Parents with children from all year levels are warmly invited to join us at this Mass.

School Board AGM:
Our Annual General Meeting of the School Board was held on Thursday 10th November. The evening began with a reflection from Dena Reddan on the learning and teaching at St. Therese. Reports were presented by the Principal, Chairman and parents and Friends. We congratulate Tim Young and Michael Timms who were elected to positions on the board. Outgoing members Brendan McKeegan, Julie Spriggs, Meg Bullen, and Simon Lindsay were recognised for their time on the board and thanked for their ongoing commitment to the school.

A copy of the Reports are available from the office.

Board members for 2017 are:

Ex-officio Members
Fr Linh Tran Parish Priest
Noel Dillon School Principal
Darren Gibbons Deputy Principal
Louise Hill Teacher Representative – Elected by the school teaching staff.

Representative members
Kenlyn Heaney Parents’ auxiliary – elected by members of the Parents and Friends
Rosemary Malone Parish Representative

Elected members - Cameron Healy Chairperson, Marsha Montebello Deputy Chairperson
Nicholas McGay, Robbie Joseph, Kenlyn Heaney, Julie Collett, Tim Young, Michael Timms

Oval Redevelopment works:
We have received confirmation from the Archbishop that our loan application for funds to complete works to the school oval have been successful. Works are planned to begin in the last week of this term, with the completion date within the first weeks of term 1, 2017. This is exciting news for the school and will provide state of the facilities for the students. I thank the school board and staff for their support and wisdom throughout the application process. We will have an opportunity early next year to officially open the new facility.

School Fees for 2017:
Fees are invoiced at the beginning of the year (including added costs where applicable). Statements are then issued via email once per term. Please note: Fees are expected to be finalised by the end of Term 3. Fees may be paid via EFTPOS, Credit Card, cheque or cash. Direct Payments and Direct Debits are available and details can be obtained from the office. The Capital Improvement Levy has been put in place to enable St Therese School to finance the new school oval.

Fees: $1,550 (per family)
Capital Improvement Levy: $50.00 (per family)

Plus a Levy of: $300 (per student) Stationery and excursion costs are covered within this levy.

Added costs: Swimming: Prep students - $78; Yrs. 1 – 4 $90;
Camp: Yr. 5&6 - $225; Surfing Program: Yr. 5&6 - $95
Parish Levy: $160 per family per year. This is billed separately by the Parish
Grandparents and Special Friends Day:
Thank you to the families that attended yesterday’s Grandparents and Special Friends Day. The large numbers in attendance were reflective of the great spirit that exists in our school. It was great to see our hall at capacity. Days such as these are very special in the lives of our children and we appreciate the effort you all make to ensure they are successful days. A special thank you to the parents who helped with the afternoon tea. Thanks also to Ron Dando and Peter Caddy for their work organising the Liturgy and the grade 3/4 students for their part in the Liturgy.

Library News:
Thank you to the St Therese Community for your support during the book fair. It was a record breaking fair for our school with sales of more than $7000. A special thank you to Paula Muir and the P&F for including us in your very successful Grandparent’s Day. What a great day and celebration of the Grandparents in our community. Well done Paula!

After feedback from our St Therese families, it has been decided that starting in 2018, we will have one book fair a year, in November.

Last day of Library Borrowing is this Thursday for Prep and next Tuesday for the other Learning Communities. On December 9 a notice will go out by email informing parents/carers of the books out on loan to individual students. After this notice you have until December 15 to return all items checked out to the return boxes in your student’s Learning Community.

Thank You

Christmas Picnic Night Thursday December 1:
Students and Teachers are currently preparing for the St Therese Christmas Picnic which will take place on the school oval on Thursday December 1. The P&F have arranged a few local caterers to provide a variety of options for you to purchase for dinner, or alternatively BYO picnic. Food will be available from 5.30pm with carols and formalities from 6:30pm.

BYO
- Drinks - no glass please
- Chairs and rugs

This is a rubbish free event. Please take all rubbish home.

Friday December 2 is a backup day for the entertainment only in case of rain, which will be held in the hall at 1.30pm; however the picnic will still go ahead regardless of the weather.
Bring your own (BYOD) Year 3/4 & Year 5/6 2017:
The Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program for Students in years 5/6 will again be implemented in 2017 as well as Year 3&4 for the first time. This program allows students to use an iPad, mini iPad or other tablet that they have purchased and are wholly responsible for. We have worked with our IT management provider, Centorrino, to ensure that all students can access their device through our school network and security system. We will continue to provide school-own laptops and iPad for all students to use and no student will be disadvantaged if they do not have their own device.

A careful consideration for Year 6 students is that most secondary schools will require students to purchase or lease a completely new device in Year 7. There are no expectations that your students will purchase an iPad or mini iPad for next year. We are aware that many students have an iPad and with Christmas coming up we wanted to inform you of our plans.

- Students may provide their own personal iPad, mini iPad or other tablet and this will be to be linked to the school network
- We will continue to offer the availability of school-owned netbook/laptops and iPads in all classes
- If Students bring their own device they are fully responsible if it is lost, stolen or damaged
- A detailed BYOD policy will be presented to all families that intend to take this offer up

Any questions please direct to Ron on rdando@sttorquay.catholic.edu.au or Darren on dgibbons@sttorquay.catholic.edu.au

Parents and Friends Association Newsletter

The P&F held our AGM this week and would like to welcome Kate Walsh as Vice President for 2017. We also welcome the 2017 Parent Class Representatives:

Prep - Olivia Buckley and Carolyn Calthorpe
1/2 – Sam Davison and Rachel Cameron
3/4 - Briony Smith
5/6 - Marisa Joseph

The remaining 2016 Executive Committee have accepted nominations to remain in their current roles to fill the executive committee positions.

President - Kenlyn Heaney
Vice President – Kate Walsh
Secretary - Laura Gordon
Treasurer’s – Samantha Arklay and Miranda McGree
General Members:

| Mel Brooks         | Marisa Joseph |
| Barb Ruzicka-Powell | Megan McGay   |
| Briony Smith       | Melanie Boswell|
| Christina Ryan     | Michelle Jones |
| Debbie Adams       | Paula Muir    |
| Jenny Coulson      | Rachel Cameron |
| Katrina Day        | Richard Archer|
| Kelly Ryan-Pretlove| Sally Hart     |
| Leanne O'Brien     | Tania Huxtable |
| Mandy McCutcheon   |                |

Everyone is welcome as a General Member at all of the P&F meetings and events so we look forward to meeting you very soon.

Thank you all for the support we have received at every event with the general members and entire school parent body.

Kenlyn Heaney
President of Parents and Friends Committee
IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2016

Thursday December 1 – Whole School Christmas Picnic
Wednesday December 7 – Last Hot Dog Day for 2016

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PICNIC
We are looking forward to the St Therese Family Christmas Picnic and especially the children’s performances. There will be plenty of food vans there on the evening providing an array of delicious food for dinner if you choose, including: The Flying Calamari Brothers, The Daily Trader (tacos), Paellamigos, Twisto Potatoes, a Pizza Van (tbc) and Timboon Ice cream.

Hot Dog Day
Don’t forget HOT DOG DAY is held every second Wednesday. Each child is to bring correct money to their respective classroom and fill in the forms located in their class.
Our last Hot Dog Day for the year will be held on Wednesday December 7.
Prices: Hot dogs $2.50  Fruit Juice $1  Wonka Raspberry Twister 50c each

Munch Day Lunch Orders
Tuesday orders must be in by mid-night Sunday prior. Thursday orders must be in by mid-night Tuesday prior. You can order ahead for the whole week and even a few weeks in advance by putting in the correct dates per order. The link below is how and where to order. Happy Munching! https://www.ouronlinecanteen.com.au/

Second Hand Uniform Shop
We are currently looking for donations of summer items, particularly summer dresses, t-shirts and boy’s shorts. If are doing a clean out before the end of year these items would be greatly appreciated. Donations may be left at the front reception or dropped off to the Uniform Shop.

The Second Hand Uniform Shop is run by a parent every Wednesday if you need assistance; otherwise you are welcome to help yourself. Thank you for your constant support with the honesty system. Prices are listed on the shelves and we just ask that you put the money in the envelopes provided there and put the envelope in the P&F mail box at front reception. Also it is much appreciated by the next person coming along, if you could replace clothes back neatly in the correct size boxes. For all enquiries please contact Kristin at kristind71@yahoo.com
Week Beginning: Monday, the 15th of Nov 2016 and 21st of Nov 2016

During Before and After School care, the kids had a chance to play all sorts of different activities; indoor and outdoor. For outside play the kids have been doing a lot of sports such as soccer, basketball and cricket. Meanwhile, for our group game, we have played several new games such as BOBS AND STATUES and RED KNEE. When they’re inside, they played different varieties of board game such as SAY MY NAME, CONNECT 4 and battleship. They were also using their imaginative skill to create different things using cardboard boxes. As for our second snack, we have made some yummy treats such as hummingbird cake and cheese dampers.

Just a reminder to parents/guardians that if your children aren’t attending OSHC can you please advise Camp Aust. or phone or text the OSHC mobile on 0417132144. You can also use this number to request to book your children or use the OSHC email HYPERLINK "mailto:bellbrae@oshccampastralia.com.au" sttheresetorquay@oshccampastralia.com.au

Seravina
Coordinator

Community News:

TORQUAY SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB

Join us for season 2016/17
Something for everyone!

KIDS  Nippers Training Now
TEENS  U14 up Seniors Training Now
        Bronze Medallion Live in Camp Dec 11-17
ADULTS  Bronze Medallion Nov 18-20

Join online anytime or Sundays 9am - 10am at the Club

Every Month - first Friday
December - every Friday
January - every Fri, Sat, Sun

www.torquayslsc.com  e: info@torquayslsc.com.au
Enrolments now open for Summer 2016/17 Surf Education Program.

- Learn skills to keep you safe on our beaches.
- Learn valuable First Aid skills.
- Start or continue your journey towards becoming a Lifesaver.
- Have great fun and make new friends.
- 8 sessions – Friday 30/12 to Thursday 12/1.

For details and enrolment –
OR Call – 5261 2755.
HATS, BAGS + SHOES
MINI MARKET

SAT NOV 26
10AM-3PM

START YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING HERE!

The market will feature a hat, bag, and shoe stall, a range of fabulous and gorgeous Christmas crafts made by our Quirky Craft group and pleasantries enabled by the hope Project Cambodia. All proceeds from these stalls will support 100% cotton/pamuk, fashion and rights. Support families in rural northern Cambodia. They are made in fair trade workshops and support Cambodian women's economic empowerment to change the lives of these families.

14 PRICE ST
TORQUAY

Surf Coast Highway
Anderson St
Price St
Parker St
Munich St
\n
Bell St

Bellbrae Disco
Years 5/6
PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
Quiksilver

No tickets at the door!
Limited number of tickets available for
St Therese Year 5 & 6 students
from Bellbrae P.S. Office on
Tuesday 29th November, 2016.
First come...First Served - Limit 2

Just bring your ticket to the hall and pay
$5.00 at the door on the night

Time: 7.00pm - 9.30pm
When: Friday, 2nd December, 2016
Where: Bellbrae Hall

Free drinks - (No BYO Soft Drinks / Energy Drinks allowed)

Lucky Spot Prizes