Advent

The word "Advent" means "coming", and so the season of Advent is a preparation for Christmas and the coming of the Christ-child. But, it is also a time for reflection on the "Coming of the Kingdom" of God, which should not be something for the future, but something that needs our involvement now.

The liturgical colour for the Advent season is purple. Purple is the colour of royalty, and it should remind us of the royal dignity we all share. It is the dignity of God, which proclaims God's loving care of all his creation. It should remind us that God's love and concern for all people and all creation is now in our hands, and we have to care for everything as God's stewards.

Advent is a time of anticipation, of expectation, of hope. But it is not just a time of hope and expectation about the life to come, of what happens after we die, but it is a time for hope now.

There are many, a growing number, who find our times hopeless. The cost of living, high interest rates, homeless children, unemployment, domestic violence, juvenile crime, fewer markets for our wheat and wool, so many people losing everything they own; how do we make our society one filled with hope? Advent gives us the opportunity to put God centre-stage in our lives, to consider what it means to be created in God's image, and to live our human dignity.

We will use this Advent well if we give time to understanding the royal dignity we have, and to see how we can be more Godlike in our world today. To do that is to go a long way in giving birth to Christ.

Dear Members of St Joseph’s Family,

St Joseph’s School Prayer

Dear Lord,

We ask you to bless St Joseph’s School Community.
We pray that you guide us to be just and to see, listen, speak and act like St Joseph.
May we be inspired by our Founders to be the best that we can be.
May we always keep Jesus at the centre of all we do.

St Emilie  Pray for us
St Marcellin  Pray for us
St Joseph  Pray for us

AMEN

School Events:
ACC Presentation for Twenty Years’ Service

Congratulations to Mr Dunkerton who received an award for twenty years’ service to the Associated and Catholic Colleges of WA last Friday. Mr Dunkerton received his award from the Fremantle player, Matthew De Boer, at UWA. Mr Dunkerton has maintained St Joseph's School's involvement with the ACC over the past 20 years, commencing as a first year teacher in 1992. In that time, he has managed and coached ACC Athletics, Swimming and Cross-Country squads on approximately sixty occasions. Mr Dunkerton received the award for reinforcing a "Have a go" attitude and promoting "Sport in the right Spirit".

Monday  Dec  2  Secondary Small Business Week
  Swimming Lessons commence ~ Yrs 1, 1/2 and Pre Primary students
  Yr 6 Excursion to Fremantle ~ 8.00am-5.30pm

Wednesday  Dec  4  Presentation Evening ~ 6.30pm at the Northam Recreation Centre ~ Yrs 1 - 10
Thursday  Dec  5  Leonard Day [Red Dress] Gold coin donation
                           Early Close
Friday  Dec  6  Thanksgiving Mass ~ Kindergarten to Yr 10 @ 9.30am in St Joseph’s Church
                           Secondary Assembly ~ Leonard
                           2014 Booklists available [will be sent home with students]
                           Yr 10 Excursion to Malaga Indoor Volleyball Centre ~ 1.00pm-9.00pm
Year 8 Mass
Thank you to Father Pavol for saying a beautiful Mass last Thursday for our Year 8 students, who were actively involved in the Mass. Thank you to Miss Dempsey and Miss Lombardini for assisting the students on their faith journey. The students were delightful and participated really well.

Jump Rope for Heart
I am proud to be able to inform you that we have raised $5721.90 for Jump Rope for Heart this year. It was an incredible effort from students. Thank you to Miss Czernowski and the Primary Team.

Secondary Social.
Thank you to Mr Sinclair and the Secondary team for organising a great evening in the St Emilie SLC for the secondary students on Wednesday evening. Mr Vernede did some tremendous work as the DJ.

Primary Excursion
Thank you to Miss Czernowski for organising a Year 4/5 Excursion to Bullsbrook Maze for her class. A great day was had by everyone who attended.

Secondary Incursion
Thank you to Mr Gargano for organising this exciting incursion with the International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research for the Year 9 and 10 Science students on Tuesday. The students also had a presentation by the Director, Professor Peter Quinn.

Primary Assembly
Thank you to Miss Dodsley and Mrs Izzard for organising their classes to present a beautiful assembly last Friday in the St Marcellin Performing Arts Centre. The Year 1 Class presented "Wombat Stew" and the Year 5/6 Class did "Dare to be Square".

Past Student Success
We are always pleased to announce success of past students and congratulate Joshua West [Year 10 2011] who received the WA College of Agriculture Cunderdin Dux of the College Award at their recent Year 12 Graduation Ceremony. Joshua received the top Student Award for two Stage 3 subjects; Animal Production and Mathematics and also for Furnishing.

Annual School Community Meeting – New Board for 2014
The new Northam Catholic School Board elected at the recent Annual School Community Meeting held on November 26 at the St Emilie Science and Language Centre are:
Fr Pavol Herda, Parish Priest
Mr Peter Ledger, Parish Representative:
Mr Earnest Ervin, P & F Representative:
Mrs Kathryn Egerton-Warburton
Mrs Cec McConnell
Mr Jaron Leask
Mrs Leonie Knipe
Mrs Kiara Willmott
Mr Daran Thompson
Mr Kevin Sheehy Principal 2013 / Mrs Carmen Cox Principal 2014
Thank you to all the members of the St Joseph's School Community who nominated for the Board. The Board may also seek to co-opt community members based on the recent skills audit with specific skills to assist the Board, especially in the area of marketing St Joseph’s School.

I would like to sincerely thank Mrs Raelenne Ashman for her sustained contribution to the school as the P & F representative for the past six years. I would also like to recognise the six years of service of Mr Eddie Budas, who was very active on the ICT Committee and the P & F. A special thank you is extended to Mrs Lucy, Mrs Moore and Mrs O’Neill for organising the beautiful catering for the evening.

Year 10 Numeracy and Literacy Testing in 2014
From 2016, Western Australian students will need to demonstrate minimum levels of literacy and numeracy to achieve their Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE).

In Western Australia, students will be required to sit online assessments in literacy (reading and writing) and numeracy, starting in Year 10, 2014. These assessments will be held in January and September each year. Students will continue to sit the assessments until they achieve the minimum standard. The standard is the minimum required for individuals to meet the complex demands of everyday life and work in our knowledge-based economy.

There will be 60 multiple-choice questions in 60 minutes for each of the reading and numeracy assessments. In the writing assessment, students will be asked to prepare a written response to a presented prompt. Responses would be a maximum of 600 words. Achieving the standard will help provide parents and the community with confidence that students will leave school with the required literacy and numeracy skills and will help employers and post-school educators in their decisions on the suitability of applicants. Year 11 and 12 students in 2014 will not be required to sit these assessments if they complete compulsory schooling in 2014 or 2015.

The assessments are managed by the School Curriculum and Standards Authority. Answers to frequently asked questions will soon be available on the Authority website at http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/internet/Senior_Secondary/The_WACE/WACE_2016/literacy_numeracy.

End of Year Reports, BRLA and WAMSE
End of Year Reports will be posted on Monday December 16 at the latest. Students who sat The Bishops' Religious Literacy Assessment (BRLA) in Years 3, 5 and 9 will also receive their results. Students in Years 5, 7 and 9 will receive a report from Western Australian Monitoring Standards in Education (WAMSE).

Thanksgiving Mass December 6
This special Mass is on Friday, December 6 at 9.30am at St Joseph’s Church. Please note that Primary (Year 6) and Secondary (Year 10) Captains for 2014 will be announced at this Mass. Father Pavol and Father Emmanuel will bless the Captains’ badges at the special Mass. Parents are most welcome to attend.

Presentation Night December 4
The Presentation Night for Years 1 - 10 students will be on Wednesday, December 4 at the Northam Recreation Centre from 6.30pm to 8.30pm. Students in Years 1 to 5 are to wear their correct summer uniform and the Years 6 to 10 will wear their correct winter uniform including tie. Personal Presentation needs to be excellent. We appreciate parental support with personal presentation as we are showcasing St Joseph’s School, Northam on the night. Please refer to the Personal Presentation Policy on pages 6-7 of the School diary.

Sponsor a Prize
Families and members of the School community are invited to sponsor a Presentation Night prize for $25 [the average cost of the books we purchase]. Recognition will be given in the program or, donors may choose to remain anonymous. We hope to maintain the distribution of prizes to recognise the academic, sporting and citizenship achievements of all our students. Thank you, once again, for your support.
Acceptable Use Policy For Computers  Student Policy
The School’s computing facilities are primarily intended for use in the teaching, research and administrative functions of the School. All students and parents must read and sign the Acceptable Use Policy.

Internet Usage
1. World Wide Web access, restricted by the School’s filtering software, is the only service offered to students. Streaming (e.g. VIVO, Real Player etc) and mpeg (Music, Movies) is not acceptable practice by students. Other internet utility programs such as E-mail or the internet phone are not to be used unless with written permission of staff.
2. The school’s Internet Service exists to provide access to curriculum related information. It will not be used to look for material which is unrelated to the School curriculum for a particular class unless approved in writing by staff.
3. Accessing inappropriate material is not permitted. Inappropriate material includes – pornography, extreme violence, gambling, terrorism, illicit drug manufacturing advice, ‘Hacking’ secure sites or material deemed inappropriate by staff of the School as determined from time to time.
4. Information published on the Internet may be inaccurate or may misrepresent a person or situation, thus care in the use of this information will be a consideration.
5. Users will not record or process information, which might knowingly infringe any patent or copyright. Where another person’s work is used it must be acknowledged accordingly.
6. Section 85ZE of the Commonwealth Crimes Act, states that a person shall not knowingly or recklessly: Use a telecommunication service supplied by a carrier to menace of harass another person.
7. Use a telecommunications service supplied by a carrier in such a way as would be regarded by reasonable persons as being, in all circumstances, offensive.
8. Students are not permitted to download any software in any form or install any software on the School’s computing facilities.
9. Students are permitted to download appropriate text and graphic files to the School’s computers and print these if related to School Curriculum. Students must ensure that their time on the Internet is used in an effective manner.
10. Students may only access computers designated by the seating plan provided by the teacher for that particular class.

Term Four Calendar for K-10 Students 2013
Term Four: Tuesday October 15 – Friday December 13 (9 weeks)
Final Day for K-10 Students Friday December 13.

Yours in Christ,
Principal

Kevin Sheehy

Our Faith

Rosary for Children
Children’s Rosary began on Friday, November 8, at 4.00pm at St Joseph’s Church. If well supported, we will have the Rosary each week at this time. All queries should be directed to Michelle Johnson on 9621 2506.

Christmas/Advent Food Hampers
All classes will commence collecting food items for the annual combined Parish Christmas/Advent appeal. There is less than four weeks until Christmas and one week to our annual Thanksgiving Mass.

Families at our school have previously been very generous and we have had many boxes of goods to present during the Offertory Procession at Thanksgiving Masses. Some of the items that are in need include: tea, coffee, tinned vegetables, rice, canned meat or fish, pasta, pasta sauces, canned fruit, long life milk, three minute noodles or soup as well as items of a festive nature. There will also be a collection box in both Admin Offices. Thank you for your continued support with this most worthwhile activity.

Christmas Nativity Play for Children
We are planning to have a Nativity Play during the Christmas Eve Mass at 5pm in St Joseph’s Church Northam. If your child/children are interested in being in the play, or being a narrator, then please contact Michelle Johnson on 9621 2506. We will be assigning parts at the Christmas Party next Friday, November 29 (see notice in newsletter for details). We will be having three practice sessions in the Church, so your child will need to attend these. The dates are;

Monday December 2
3.30-4.30pm

Monday December 9
3.30-4.30pm

Thursday December 19
3.30-4.30pm

Children who will be participating in the Nativity Play on Tuesday, December 24 will need to be at Church no later than 4.15pm to allow time to dress in costumes and have a final practice. We have costumes for the children to use.

Archdiocesan Centenary Celebrations 1913 - 2013
All are welcome to participate in Journey with Mary towards her Son. This will be a Marian Novena of Nine Days of Prayer at St Mary’s Cathedral, Perth over Sunday, December 1 to Saturday, December 7, 2013 Holy Hour 7.00pm-8.00pm; Sunday, December 8 Vespers 7.00 -8.00pm; Mass of Solemnity for the Feast of Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary will be held on Monday, December 9, 2013 at 7.00pm, celebrated by Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB In the presence of his Grace, the Papal Nuncio.

Our School

*** Power Outage @ Primary ~ Friday, December 6
Western Power has advised that they expect to cut off power to the Primary Campus next Friday, December 6 from 7am-5pm. This will affect our telephone and computer service for the day. Parents are advised that should you need to contact the Primary Campus, ring 9621 3550 or fax notes to 9622 3655. We will have regular contact between the Secondary and Primary Campuses throughout the day. The Primary Canteen will operate as usual and our water coolers will still function, allowing students to stay hydrated during the day.

Uniform Items – Additional Supplier of Shoes
Betts Kids advise that they have a range of Airflex school and sports shoes for the important Back to School period. We know that parents have so much to organise as is so an exclusive earlybird offer is extended to our families. For a limited time, you will receive 25% off all full priced Airflex school and sports shoes at any Betts Kids store. To redeem this offer in-store, simply print out the voucher on our website and take it into your local Betts Kids store. If you do not have a printer, simply quote the code word ‘EARLYBIRD’ in store. This offer is valid from November 26 to December 15, 2013. For your convenience, this offer is also available at any Betts or Airflex store nationwide. To find your nearest store’s location, simply head to www.bettskids.com.au.

Our Students

Radio Astronomy at St Joseph’s School
On Tuesday, Year 9 and 10 Course A Science and Mathematics classes were treated to a special activity involving presentations and a series of workshops on Radio Astronomy. The first session was by Professor Quinn, the Director of ICRAR, the
International Centre for Radio Astronomy Research, a combined research facility run by the University of Western Australia and Curtin University.

The aim of the presentation was to introduce the students to the concepts of radio astronomy, using a historical perspective of all types of astronomy identifying people, places and types of research. The presentation enhanced the material covered in class superbly and extending skills and knowledge to how we can use radio astronomy, especially with future research through the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) project.

The second presentation involved a talk about solar science and current world-leading research being conducted here in WA, relating to the structure, composition and activity of the sun. After the talking side of things, the students then were involved with a range of practical tasks. This included optically observing the sun (through a series of filters) to identify and measure solar spots, setting up and using a radio dish to examine solar activity and measure the surface temperature of the sun and building your own radio telescope, out of very technical equipment such as spaghetti sticks!

Overall, a very educational day and an enjoyable way of connecting science and mathematics content linked to an actual project that will require science, mathematics and engineering expertise in the future.

I would like to thank the ICRAR team of Kirsten Gottschalk and Thomas Russell and led by Professor Peter Quinn, for providing their equipment and instruction throughout the day. I would also like to acknowledge our own Mrs Shona Holland, for purchasing and setting up various equipment throughout the day to support the ‘build your own radio telescope’ session.

For more information about ICRAR and radio astronomy research in Western Australia, please go to; http://www.icrar.org/, and to find out more about the largest international radio telescope project, which will have a significant component based here in WA, please go to; http://www.ska.gov.au

Mark Gargano
Curriculum Coordinator
Teaching & Learning Years 5-10

Our Community

Northam Junior Cricket Expression of Interest
Northam Junior Cricket Association is seeking expressions of interest from girls aged 11 to 14 to participate in the Girls Country Cricket Carnival. The event is being held from January 8 - 10 2014, and involves T20, Super 8s and indoor cricket formats. Interested players should have some playing experience, together with a basic skill level. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Melinda Lucas on 0481139894 or email cricket.1951@hotmail.com

Flame Ministries Congress

Avon Valley Christmas Carnival
The annual Christmas Carnival is being held on Sunday December 15 at the Northam Recreation Centre from 3-7pm. There will be heaps of free activities, games, craft and an indoor market to pick up last minute gifts. Be sure to visit Santa in his grotto and watch his grand entrance at 4pm.

Food will be on sale with free Mocktails by Roadwise. Rides at only $5 for all rides, all afternoon with children 3 and under free. For more information, please contact Jennifer Russell on 9622 6150 or email events@northam.wa.gov.au