Dear families,

"Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple". Luke: 14-25

When looking for suitable scripture that attunes to our value based beliefs in family and community, we are often affronted by Jesus’ message to abandon family, home, and security to follow him. Yet we can clearly see that both ‘staying with’ and ‘following’ is happening in our lives. In good people who serve their communities and uphold family life; in those who carry their own burdens within their families yet give to others; and in we who suffer in counsel with others’ daily life challenges, offering support and a listening ear. There is often a fine line between nurture and firm guidance. The tough conversations can be fraught with danger – timing, tone, words and body language are crucial partners, and sometimes none of these help when grappling with a wilful five year old or troubled teenager. Sometimes the cross we bear is that of heady responsibility – as parents and as educators to get it right. That’s why Jesus called forth disciples – no one should do it alone.

Our college had the pleasure of welcoming our new Director, Ms Brenda Keenan, who visited all staff and toured the campuses on Wednesday. Brenda was delighted to meet everyone and equally impressed with the many great things happening in all the Port Pirie Diocesan schools she has visited.

Tomorrow is the Primary Campus’ Sports Day. At the time of writing, it is our intention that it goes ahead as planned given the forecast for rain is minimal. If the whole day is postponed, students will have already been informed and a note would have come home this afternoon. We have booked the track for September 20 if we need to “try again”. Students who attend oSHC will be returned to oLHC by staff.

This week we have a number of items of information from other agencies and within our system to be shared with our community. Firstly, from our Director regarding school funding; something to be aware of that may or may not influence your decision making selections this coming weekend and secondly, from our Premier regarding his concerns about children and access to social media gaming. Please refer to inserts with this Newsletter.

We are seeking your advice and impressions as we overhaul our website. John and Terissa have attended a training session or two and are ready to re-develop our site map and prepare content. One early example where we know we need improvement is with our enrolment procedure information. We have plenty of downloadable forms on our site but often not the ‘how to’ of it all. If you have sought Q & A on any topic and not found it or had to ring the campus offices for clarification please let us know. You can email any useful comments to info@samaritan.catholic.edu.au; subject ‘WEBSITE IMPROVEMENT’. Thank you for your anticipated assistance in making our website a dynamic and live site of information.
Parish News

This weekend at each of our Masses we celebrate White Balloon Day. This is a Bravehearts signature event held annually during Child Protection Week to raise awareness about child sexual assault and help empower survivors to break their silence.

Launched in 1997, the annual White Balloon Day is a symbol of hope that brings about awareness and raises funds for children affected by sexual assault. The white balloon was considered symbolic of the issue of child sexual assault following a public demonstration held in Belgium on October 20, 1996. On this day, 300,000 people gathered with white balloons and white flowers in a show of public sympathy and support for the parents of several young girls who were either murdered or missing at the hands of a notorious repeat offender. White Balloon Day is now an annual event and is widely supported by commercial, government and community sectors. In addition, White Balloon Day enjoys overwhelming support and encouragement from the media, schools, churches, health practitioners, emergency services, the legal fraternity and community organisations.

Bravehearts’ key purpose is to educate, empower and protect Australian kids from sexual assault. Their vision is to make Australia the safest place in the world to raise a child by 2020. To achieve this they depend on business, government and community support. This will ensure continued delivery of school-based prevention programs as well as training, counselling, support and advocacy for survivors. It will also allow continued research and important legislative reform agenda.

Research shows that 1 in 5 Australian children will be sexually assaulted before their 18th birthday. It is only through increasing general awareness, increasing skills and capacity building for those working and living with children, preventative strategies, education and strong policies and legislation that the mission of stopping child sexual abuse in our society can be accomplished. We all need to work together to ensure that we can give hope and healing to the most vulnerable and precious members of our community – our kids.

Natasha Free  
CHILD SAFE CONTACT PERSON  
FOR THE PARISH TEAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEKEND MASS TIMES</th>
<th>St Teresa’s Church</th>
<th>Our Lady Help of Christians Church</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
<td>8:30am</td>
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Religious Dimension

Recently Bishop Hurley, the Bishop of the Darwin Diocese and former Bishop of our own Diocese sent a letter to the Hon. Tony Abbot outlining his personal dealings with people in the Wickham Point and Blaydin detention centres in Darwin.

The content of his letter tried to put a human face to the people who were seeking a new life away from the hardships of their own countries.

With the upcoming election we pray our politicians don’t lose sight of the suffering and plight of people on our own shores who wish to see the face of Christ to help them make a new life.

PRAYER for MIGRANTS, REFUGEES & ASSYLM SEEKERS

God, no one is stranger to you  
And no one is ever far from your loving care.

In your kindness watch over migrants, refugees and asylum seekers,  
Those separated from their loved ones,  
Those who are lost  
And those who have been exiled from their homes.

Bring them safely to the place where they long to be,  
And help us always to show your kindness to strangers  
And those in need.

We ask this through Christ our Lord,  
Who too was a refugee and migrant  
Who travelled to another land  
Searching for a home.

Amen
In this week’s newsletter you will notice we have inserted a celebratory page for our successful Samaritan School musical Annie. We do this to acknowledge the significant contribution of Brodie Adamson, Caitlin Davidson, Eddie McCarroll, Jordan, Zandri Steinmann, Brendan Lay and Mackenzie Bray. These students were not acknowledged in our Primary campus Annual. We sincerely apologise and look forward to this error being rectified in the Secondary Annual.

SPORTS DAY

Today with the Newsletter, each family would have received a Sports Day Program outlining the format for the day and each child’s involvement. Parents of students in the Early Years may opt for a mid afternoon dismissal after 1:40pm as long as their classroom teacher has been notified. For your information and convenience a brief overview is included below:

- 8:30 Students arrive at Jubilee Park (assemble in designated school area)
- 9:00 R-3 March on (in classes)
- 4-7 March on (in House Teams)
- 9:10 Welcome and Sports Day Blessing
- 9:15 Cheerleading begins
- 9:45 Yr 6 and 7 High Jump / Long Jump events – students will be called when it is their turn
- 9:45 Morning Session games
- 10:50 – 11:10 Recess – children remain in their House Tents
- 11:15 Mid Morning games
- 12:35 – 1:00 Lunch - Children remain in their House Tents
- 1:05 Sprints – Reception – Yr 7
- 1:40 Relays – Reception to Yr 7 (* optional early dismissal for Junior students)
- 2:15 Staff v Parent v House Captain Relay
- 2:30 Marathons (1 Lap) – Yrs 4 – 7
- 3:00 Presentation and Clean Up

STUDENTS RIDING TO SCHOOL

This week I met with an extremely concerned community member who has witnessed some of our students riding their bikes to school. This individual has witnessed our...
students riding with very little awareness of the cars around them and placing themselves at risk. If your son or daughter rides to school can you please make time to sit and chat with them about road safety and/or join them on a ride to school to model safe behaviours if they are crossing main roads or roundabouts.

**SUCH BUSY TIMES FOR PARENTS**

A big thank you to all parents for their patience and support over the last few weeks. We are very aware that there has been much to take into account with students being dropped off and collected from various locations. This has been much appreciated and we foresee a return to normality and routines at the completion of the week. Thank you again for your support.

Grace and blessings,

Georga Tyson

**ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL**

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**ELECTIONS**

In the lead up to the Australian Federal Election, the Year 5/6 and Year 6/7 classes at OLHCC have been learning about Australian Government as part of their Society and Environment studies.

A significant part of this unit has been for students to develop their own political parties and work in these groups to develop policies, advertisements and political campaigns in the hope of having their political party elected by their peers as leadership.

Groups worked collaboratively to produce posters, videos and speeches as part of their campaign. Students enjoyed working as a team and producing policies, as well as the chance to demonstrate their learning about different Australian political parties and how they operate. Year 5/6 Clifford and Baulderstone held their elections on Friday of Week 6, while Year 6/7 Keen and Lancaster held theirs on Tuesday of Week 7.

Students listened to speeches, watched videos and applauded their peers’ efforts. Each student had the opportunity to vote for their preferred party using a preferential system.

All students enjoyed the experience and found it an interesting, hands on way to learn about governments and elections. It has also sparked much interest in this weekend’s election.

“I enjoyed forming our own political parties because I enjoyed writing speeches and working with people from my party” Tullie Harris

“I learnt about the rules about advertising during political campaigns and I really enjoyed putting our party’s posters together” Christine Soriano

“There are a lot more political parties in Australia than I realised. I enjoyed creating policies for our school and being the leader of my party. Using imovie on the ipad was also fun”. Blake Cleary

Jenna Baulderstone
Nicki Clifford
Maddy Keen
Nikki Lancaster

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**R/1 LEWIS CLASS MASS**

R/1 Lewis will celebrate Mass on Thursday, September 12 at 9:00 am. Please bring something to share for morning tea. Families are most welcome to attend.

Bernie Meixner

**ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND MISSION**
BOOK WEEK

‘Read Across the Universe’ was the theme for Book Week 2014. The primary campus’ celebrations included the parades, library displays, buddy class reading activities and peer led lunchtime activities.

The parades were a true celebration of reading, with children and staff dressing up to reflect the theme, or as their favourite book or character. It was pleasing to see the high level of student participation as well as the thought and creativity in many of the costumes.

To further promote the importance and enjoyment of reading students participated in buddy class reading activities. While some of these activities related to the Book Week books incorporating craft, others took on the making of audio books, visits to the Whyalla Library, space related craft and some read “across the universe” (in different locations).

Both campus libraries were abuzz with students contributing to the space displays and viewing the SRC ‘extreme’ photo shoot depicting students reading around the local area. A photo booth provided many opportunities for students to create imaginative photos as a stimulus for reading and writing activities.

Year 6/7 students confirmed their roles as leaders within our school as they planned and facilitated lunch time library activities for their peers. The student’s displayed effective problem solving, time management and communication skills as they engaged the younger students in fun literature based activities.

A wonderful celebration was had by all.

Lou Whitehouse
ON BEHALF OF THE BOOK WEEK COMMITTEE

SECONDARY CAMPUS NEWS

Secondary attendance hotline: 0488 626 818 - text messages only, otherwise please phone 8645 8568.

Congratulations RICE house. Another successful Sports Day is completed. There were some outstanding performances on the day where students showcased their many sporting abilities. Thank you to all the parents who attended and supported the children. It was really good to see the helpers in their different capacities.

EDUCATION NIGHTS

Thank you to the parents and students who attended the education nights this term. We hope that you found them to be of value in helping to reach decisions about the subject choices for your child. The information around cyber bullying, presented at the Year 8 and 9 evenings, has hopefully created an element of discussion in the household around keeping our young people protected. Parents who weren’t able to attend may wish to view the videos that were shown to get an idea of what might be happening with children through social media.

The first clip is part of the government cybersmart website, to educate and warn people about cyber safety. It is entitled “Tagged” and can be found under the Teens section of the site. Whilst only a section of the clip was shown it demonstrated the ways in which young people can be involved in establishing situations where others are targeted.

The second clip, through youtube.com “amazing mind reader reveals his ‘gift’”, highlighted just how much information people can get about others if they know where to look. This serves as a good
Expressions of interest are being sought from students in Year 9 to 12 to be part of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Samaritan College is interested in being part of a diocesan group to travel to Melbourne for a three day festival in December. If you are interested please contact Mr Meixner at Samaritan College. This will be a great way to meet like-minded people of your age in a fun and engaging way.

**Purpose:**
The Australian Catholic Youth Festival exists to:
- Provide a high quality formative and experiential opportunity for young Catholics to encounter Jesus Christ, in the context of the Catholic Church in Australia;
- Listen to and discuss the issues and challenges in the lives of young Catholics in Australia;
- Evangelise young people and empower them to be evangelisers;
- Provide young people with local examples and connections of vocations, social action, liturgy and prayer, Catholic music and catechesis.

The following links provide more information.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rMmcGfynWmY
www.youthfestival.catholic.org.au

Bernie Meixner
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND MISSION

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**AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC YOUTH FESTIVAL**

Expressions of interest are being sought from students in Year 9 to 12 to be part of the Australian Catholic Youth Festival. Samaritan College is interested in being part of a diocesan group to travel to Melbourne for a three day festival in December. If you are interested please contact Mr Meixner at Samaritan College. This will be a great way to meet like-minded people of your age in a fun and engaging way.

**STUDENT DRIVERS**

Whilst the College supports the rights of students to drive to and from school we ask that students respect the rights of the local neighbours. Students need to ensure that they are firstly parked on the College side of both Gowrie and Norrie Avenue and that, if they park down a side street they are parked within the painted lines.

John Lyons
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

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**CANTEEN ROSTERS**

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<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>ST TERESA’S CAMPUS</th>
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<th>SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rita Marinkovich</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
<td>HELP NEEDED</td>
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<tr>
<td>Courtney &amp; Maddie</td>
<td>NO HELP REQUIRED</td>
<td>Tracey Murray</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michelle Bolitho</td>
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<td>Monica Pemmimpede</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mandy Smallacombe</td>
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<td>Roseanna Wragg</td>
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<td>Mitchell &amp; Sam</td>
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Please disregard the advert for Middleback Theatre in the community section of last week’s newsletter as this was printed in error.