Dear families,

Give sorrow words;  
the grief that does not speak  
Whispers the o’er-fraught heart  
and bids it break.  
~ William Shakespeare, in Macbeth, Act IV, Scene III

November is the month parishes remember those who have died. November 1 and 2 are special holy days in the Church year, being All Saints Day and All Souls Day. For the younger students there may be more connection to the fact that in some countries All Saints Day is known as All Hallows Day and the day before, October 31, is Hallows Eve which has evolved into Halloween. John’s Gospel for All Saints Day, states, ’Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and I will not reject anyone who comes to me, because I came down from heaven not to do my own will but the will of the one who sent me.’

Take time this November to remember those who have already left this world. At this time we also think and pray for our students and old scholars who have passed away, and hold young Max Redden from St Joseph’s, Clare, in our hearts, who lost his life so early and so tragically last weekend. Please pray for his three siblings, parents and extended family in the mid north.

At a staff meeting earlier this week, staff were informed that Helen Holland will be retiring at the end of the year. Helen has been with Samaritan and St Teresa’s School for over 20 years. It is always a significant time when a long serving staff member retires and we wish Helen all the best for the next phase of her life and thank her for the massive contribution she has made to the college. Helen’s contribution to Reading Recovery in the last decade has assisted many early years children ‘come up to speed’ with their reading. An appropriate farewell will be held in the coming weeks.

You will notice in the primary section that parents have the opportunity to make some comment about where their child might be placed in 2014. We remind parents that we take this information on board, along with a range of other information, but the ultimate decision remains with us. Parents do not get to choose what class their child will be in.

Whilst there are still lots of working and learning weeks remaining in the term, it is important to note the dates of when Prize Night, Graduation Night, Family/Carols Nights, ‘Not the International Night Twilight Picnic’ and various end of year liturgies are being held. Please refer to the online calendar (not the January printed calendar, as there have been changes) or refer to the dates listed at the top of this page.
On Wednesday of last week a large number of sick and infirm parishioners attended our anointing Mass. It was a much appreciated opportunity for those who find difficulty in attending regular parish events to receive the support of this important sacrament within the parish community. Mass and a shared lunch in the hall brought us together to pray and renew old friendships. It was also one of those events which showed the generosity of our volunteers and contributors.

This year’s First Reconciliation group have begun their course of preparation and we are most impressed by the good natured enthusiasm of the students, teachers and families. The Parent-Student Evening and Friday workshops for the First Reconciliation children were well attended and everyone involved commented on how enjoyable these events were. The young people’s interest in hearing about this sacrament of healing of our spirits was a good opportunity for the adults to reflect on the sacrament in their lives. This Thursday will provide the second workshop and in a few weeks’ time the students will come with their families to receive the sacrament. We are all invited to pray for the children and their families during this time of preparation.

This weekend our Parish community will be giving thanks for the 71 years of devoted service and ministry of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan in Whyalla. It is one of the realities of life that a farewell is also an opportunity to look back and to recognise what individuals or dedicated organizations have generously provided over the years they have been with us. It is also a salutary exercise to imagine the huge loss to the life of the community if they hadn’t been with us at all. They have given so much in their time, it is impossible to know all the good they have done and the great contributions they have made to our school, parish and the wider community.

The weekend’s activities will begin with at least 21 Good Samaritan Sisters gathering with Sister Helen and the Whyalla community for an “all welcome” Mass; presided over by Bishop Greg and a number of past and present Whyalla priests. Missionary Sisters of Service, Christian Brothers, Josephite Sisters and other religious will also come to honour the sisters. The many acceptances of the invitation to Saturday night’s dinner are indicative of the appreciative affection so many of us have for the “Good Sams.” Saturday 9:00am Morning Prayer, Sunday’s 11:00am Mass at the Saint John’s Campus Gym and the Ritual of Leave at 6:30pm Sunday are open to everyone, and we take this opportunity to encourage you to attend and give a fitting tribute to the blessing the Sisters have conferred on the vitality and spirituality of Whyalla.

Sr Cheryle Thomson
FOR THE PARISH TEAM

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WEEKEND MASS TIMES</th>
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<tr>
<td>St Teresa’s Church</td>
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The Good Samaritan Sisters have been part of Catholic Education in Whyalla since 1942 and probably longer than that in a pastoral role with the Catholic Church. Their impact on the community of Whyalla has been significant through their devotion to their calling, and their care for the countless families they have helped in their long association with the city of Whyalla.

Countless families in Whyalla have been educated by the sisters and perhaps choose to send their children to Samaritan College because of these experiences.

My own experiences with the sisters began in 1989 when I arrived in Whyalla to teach at Saint John’s College. My own faith as a 24 year old was definitely on the back-burner. The sisters, through their love of neighbor, example of dedication to their faith, a ‘can do’ attitude to getting important things done that helped those in need and their love of life, were important ingredients in re-igniting my own faith.

A lot of my ‘awakening of faith’ came from working with the sisters and watching their ‘faith in action’ as they went about their daily tasks. Their openness to answer my questions about their life, their passion and their calling also helped me find my way in faith.

As well as providing a wonderful example of faith, they were also genuine in their personal interactions displaying humour, drama, anxiety and genuine love for all.

As a young impressionable teacher, not knowing how to act around a religious person, I remember fumbling with a basketball that went on to hit Sister Julie. When I jokingly asked, “what happens if you hit a nun with a basket ball”? She quipped in return; “you go straight to hell”. I remember and tell this story not because it alarmed me or scarred me in any way, but because it actually put me at ease and made me realise how approachable and down to earth the sisters are.

On behalf of Samaritan College, I thank the sisters for their dedication to Catholic Education in Whyalla and offer blessings to all their communities as they continue their ministries in whatever direction the Holy Spirit draws these wonderful women.

Personally I thank the sisters for the witness, friendship and good humour they offered me.

Bernie Meixner
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND MISSION
GOOD SAMARITAN SISTERS FAREWELL EVENTS

Friday, November 1: 7pm Mass followed by supper - St Teresa's Church
Saturday, November 2: 9am Morning prayer followed by brunch - OLHC Church
Saturday, November 2: 6pm Dinner, $25 followed by a social evening, 7:30pm. Venue: Central Whyalla Football Clubrooms
Sunday, November 3: 11am Mass followed by a picnic on the oval. Venue: Samaritan Hall, Saint John's Campus.

10 things you should know about the Good Sams:
1. The Congregation of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan is the first religious congregation to be founded in Australia.
2. They are affectionately known as the Good Sams.
3. They try and bring Jesus' vision of compassion and justice to people in cities, villages and remote rural areas in five different countries: Australia, Japan, the Philippines, Kiribati and East Timor.
4. The sources for their spirituality are the Gospel, the Rule of St Benedict, and the energetic, inclusive love of their founder Archbishop John Bede Polding.
5. The Good Sams live a rich prayer life. They pray the morning and evening prayer of the Church and engage in lectio divina, an ancient way of praying with the Scriptures.
6. A Sister of Charity, Mother Scholastica Gibbons, was their first leader.
7. They were invited to bring healing and education to the people of Japan in the aftermath of the atomic bomb.
8. Men, as well as women, can become part of the Good Sam family by becoming oblates.
9. The Good Sams are a diverse group of women. You'll find them relaxing in different ways – by watching football, attending a symphony concert, bush-walking, enjoying the beach.
10. From the beginning they were given a broad mandate to respond to whatever was the social and spiritual need of the time.

From www.goodsams.org.au/who-we-are/ten-facts-you-should-know-about-the-good-sams/

CHILDREN'S MASS

Children’s Mass at St Teresa’s church on Saturday November 9 at 7pm. A preparation workshop will be held at St Teresa’s church on Friday, November 8 at 4:00pm.

Lou Whitehouse
DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING

MASS

R/1 Cooper will celebrate Mass on Thursday, November 7 at 9:00am at OLHC Church. 6/7 Keen children will come as their buddies. Parents are most welcome to attend.

R/1 Harman will attend Mass at Saint Teresa’s Church on Wednesday, November 6. The children are to be dropped at the Church by 8:45 am and will return to their campus by bus at the end of Mass. Parents are most welcome to celebrate Mass and stay for morning tea.

Bernie Meixner
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND MISSION

CLASS PLACEMENTS

At this time of year we commence the thorough process of structuring classes and looking at placement of students. Our teachers have an innate understanding of the students in their care and so are very well informed as to student needs and this is certainly taken into consideration. The process of class placement is not one that requires community consultation, however, if you have any educational information that may be new to the school or which we are unaware of, please make time to see one of our primary campus leadership team members to share this information. They will then further discuss this with Damien and myself. We do not consider requests asking for a particular teacher, as this does not fit the criteria with which we place children.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT SUPPORT REQUIRED

As has been the case in the past, some of our Reception/Year 1 classes will take part in the Whyalla pageant this year. We require help accessing a truck/trailer that has
sides on it and is suitable for students to travel on in the pageant. If you are able to supply/drive the truck please contact either of our primary campus offices and leave your details. Your assistance would be much appreciated.

WORLD TEACHER’S DAY

Last Friday was World Teacher’s Day and an opportunity to recognise the efforts of educators all around the world. We take this opportunity to thank our teaching and support staff for their ongoing commitment to education. Not only do they work tirelessly in class, your children are often their last thought at night and first thought in the morning.

CAROLS AND FAMILY NIGHT

Discussions and preparations are well underway for both Family Night at STC and Carol’s Night at OLHCC. Both of these community celebrations will now commence a half an hour later and this decision will no doubt be welcomed by many as it allows people more time to get ready for both nights and will also provide relief from potential warm weather.

Carols Night @ OLHCC on Wednesday, December 4, 7pm
Family Night @ STC on Friday, December 6, 7pm

SECONDARY CAMPUS NEWS

Over the next few weeks the Year 8 students will vacate classrooms in the gymnasium to make room for the various examinations that are held in the college. Teachers will inform their classes of the new locations for core subjects.

MOVEMBER

In the last few years November has been associated with increasing awareness in men’s health. Previously staff and senior students have shown support for this cause through participation in the Movember challenge to grow moustaches. Students who would like to participate in charity events like this are asked to seek permission from the college before registering.

ICT

It is regrettable that there are some individuals in the College who are deliberately damaging school ICT equipment. Unfortunately the damage is not always obvious, so whilst teachers are checking the status of the equipment, they may not notice what has been done. When students notice that a computer/laptop has been tampered with they need to bring it to the teacher’s attention immediately, or risk being questioned as to whether they had any part to play in the damage. If necessary the school might seek replacement costs from families.

YR 7 TRANSITION INFORMATION

This week our Year 7 students visit the Secondary Campus for their first transition visit. Despite this being the first formal transition visit to the campus, many of these students are familiar with the campus and have been visiting regularly as part of their Science Curriculum this term. There are many key dates for Yr 7’s this term. Next week your child will bring home further information about these dates. The transition dates are as follows:

ORIENTATION AFTERNOON - Good Samaritan Rotunda
Friday November 1, 2013 {1:45pm – 3:15pm}

INVOLVEMENT DAY - Good Samaritan Rotunda
(8:30am – 3:25pm)
MONDAY 18/11 - STC - Pete Usher
TUESDAY 19/11 – OLHCC - Maddy Keen
WEDNESDAY 20/11 – OLHCC - Nikki Lancaster
THURSDAY 21/11 – Sunrise, MOPS & Long Street PS
FRIDAY 22/11 – NAPS, Stuart PS, WTPS & Hincks Ave PS

‘PARENTS’ INFORMATION EVENING - Gallery – Samaritan Hall
Tuesday November 19, 2013 {7:30pm – 9:00pm}

Grace and blessings,
Georga Tyson
ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

UNI-READY

There are currently fifty students from Year 10 who are involved in a UniReady Program at the Whyalla UniSA campus. Students have been attending information sessions to develop a greater understanding of the courses offered locally. This program supports the Personal Learning Plan that students must undertake as part of their SACE.

SCHOLARSHIPS

A letter passed my desk at the end of last week promoting university scholarships for country students. This particular one was the University of South Australia Rural Reconnect Relocation Scholarships, valued at $6000. The purpose is to assist students with the costs of moving to Adelaide to pursue full-time tertiary study. There are various costs associated with tertiary studies that could be offset by one of the many scholarships available. Students are encouraged to search the websites of the different universities that they have applied to and complete an application for a scholarship.

John Lyons
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL (SECONDARY)
10 GOLD MASS

10 Gold Homes RE class will celebrate Mass on Wednesday, November 6 at Saint Teresa's Church. The students will meet at the church by 8:45am and walk back to church after the celebration. Parents are welcome to attend.

Bernie Meixner
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL IN RELIGIOUS IDENTITY AND MISSION

STAGE 2 SACE BOARD FINAL EXAMINATIONS

Year 12 students who have chosen to study examinable subjects will be required to attend their scheduled examination from Monday, November 4 commencing with English Studies until Tuesday, November 19 with Legal Studies. All students have received a formal SACE Board timetable with allowances and rules to be aware of but I would like to remind students of the following expectations:

• Students must be in full summer uniform and appropriately groomed
• Dictionaries, water and tissues will be provided (No dictionaries are to be brought from home except languages). Own water and snacks are allowed (snacks must not cause distraction to others and cannot be fruit) – water must be presented in a clear container.
• Students must be on campus by 8:30am for a 9:00am start and 1:00pm for a 1:30pm start. The examination venue is the mezzanine level of Samaritan Hall – doors will be opened 10 minutes before the start of an examination
• Students do not need to sign in at the front office when they come straight to the Hall but if they use any other area e.g. library then sign in needs to happen as per normal

The timetable is also available from the College website through the ‘Students’ tab on the left hand side

SACE RESULTS

The 2013 Year 12 cohort will be able to access their results on Thursday, December 19. This can be done online through the SACE website and the pink ‘CONNECT’ tab, then accessing the ‘Students Online’ section. A password is required so it is important to check that students can gain access before the results are released to avoid disappointment. Alternately, wait by the mailbox for the postie to arrive with that all important envelope! The front office will be open for a window of time on that morning to field questions and queries regarding results. More information will be given closer to the time. Flyers explaining how to access results are available from the front office, will be displayed at the examination venue and is available from the ‘Students’ tab on the College website.

University of South Australia Rural Reconnect Relocation Scholarships

This scholarship, valued at $6000, assist high-achieving students from rural and isolated areas with the cost of moving to Adelaide to pursue full-time undergraduate study. Applications close on Wednesday 8 January 2014 at 5:00pm - more information regarding applications can be found at www.unisa.edu.au/ruralreconnect or come and grab a form from me during office hours, either on Monday or Wednesday.

On behalf of the Samaritan College community, I would like to wish the Year 12 students all the best for their examinations – may you find it a rewarding and character building experience! We look forward to sharing in your happiness during the different end points of your educational journey!

Maresa Lyons
SACE COORDINATOR

LOST PROPERTY

There are an astounding number of PE Rugby tops and school jumpers in the lost property box, located in the canteen. These jumpers are not named, making it impossible for us to return them to their rightful owners. There are some good quality jumpers amongst them and of significant value to parents.

Please check your cupboards! If you are missing a PE Rugby Top (sports jumper) or a school jumper, please come and check at the canteen for it, either during morning caregroup or the second half of recess or lunch.

All unclaimed items will be sent to St Vincent de Paul or the Uniform Shop for resale as second hand uniforms at the end of term.

Marg Coad
CANTEEN MANAGER

ST TERESA’S CAMPUS

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mon</th>
<th>Joanne Foubister</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tue</td>
<td>Tonia Munday</td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>Nicole Higgins</td>
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<td>Thu</td>
<td>Geniene Prater</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>Rebecca &amp; Fiona</td>
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OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS CAMPUS

NO HELP REQUIRED

SAINT JOHN’S CAMPUS

HELP NEEDED

Tracey Murray
Monica Pennimpede
Roseanna Wragg

Annette Cameron
CANTEEN MANAGER

Rose Cassar
CANTEEN MANAGER

Marg Coad
CANTEEN MANAGER

October 31, 2013

5 of 6
Let's talk about literacy

The importance of reading to children – on a daily basis, from birth and beyond – has never been more imperative, writes Karen Fontaine

Since 2002, the University of Melbourne’s Centre for Community Child Health has run a Let’s Read program in partnership with The Smith Family. Its aim? To make reading to young children “an integral part of early childhood development,” the Centre’s director, Professor Frank Oberklaid, told me in an interview 11 years ago.

“In the same way that we immunise children against the possibility of getting infectious diseases, we are arguing that reading to young children in the first few years of life is the best way of immunising them against poor literacy later on,” he said.

More than a decade down the track, the report card for the children the Let’s Read program is trying to reach isn’t exactly glowing – and that isn’t my appraisal, it’s that of Peter Garrett. Before he resigned as the federal Minister for School Education, Early Childhood and Youth, Garrett penned a newspaper article headlined ‘We cannot be proud of our literacy levels’.

“Australia’s overall literacy results have not been improving, and we are well behind many other countries in literacy tests,” Garrett wrote in The Daily Telegraph in April 2013. “Reading is the core skill that every student needs to succeed in school and in life. But too many Australian kids are not getting the basics they need to progress through their schooling confidently, and to get a job when they leave school.”

Garrett offered as examples the fact that around 75,000 students who sat NAPLAN tests in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in 2012 didn’t meet national minimum standards. In Year 4 reading, one in four students are not meeting international benchmarks. In the most recent tests conducted in 2010, Australia performed worst out of all English-speaking countries; our score was lower than that of 21 other nations. This result is made worse when you consider that literacy is defined by the United Nations as a basic human right.

In response, Garrett unveiled a series of reforms, one of which was that hundreds of thousands of children would be assessed in their first year of school to find out whether they are at risk of falling behind and require extra help. In addition there would be a three-year ‘reading blitz’ for 1.1 million students from kindergarten to Year 3.

But the $64 million question is this: will these reforms actually improve Australian children’s literacy levels?

One expert, Annemarie Laurence, a clinical educator in speech pathology with the Speech Pathology in Schools (SPinS) program run by the University of Newcastle, fears not.

Identifying ‘at-risk’ children at the age of five is “two years too late”, warns Ms Laurence, who works every day with children struggling with literacy.

In The Sydney Morning Herald, Ms Laurence painted a wretched picture of the plight of the children with whom she works. “In the years before they started school, an outing for these children was being pushed around in a stroller at the local Westfield [shopping centre]. They have an iPad. They rarely have a book read to them. Their language is not stimulated regularly by conversation and questioning. They may have a speech delay so perhaps both familiar and unfamiliar people might have difficulties understanding what they are saying. They arrive on the mat on the first day of kindergarten with a mild receptive language delay.