Dear Parents, Staff and Friends of St Joseph’s Community,

Second Sunday of Advent (4 December)

The voice cries in the desert; prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.

Matt 3:3

The Judean Desert has traditionally been a place for Bedouins and a hiding place for refugees, eg: David escaping Saul. Lying to the East of Jerusalem and Bethlehem, it is an array of arid hills and canyons falling from the mountain heights to the Dead Sea. The desert is a dangerous environment lacking in water and life - a land of barrenness and deprivation where one loses all sense of direction. It is also a land of profound silence that has haunted many seekers of a deeper spiritual life. John the Baptist emerges from the desert crying out for us to change our ways.

Many seekers of God have experienced an interior desert. No comfort of God’s presence; no certainty of where we are going; a silence that begets the question, “Where is God?” Preparation for Christmas can be a desert time for us as we cope with the demands of a consumerist society in the midst of a world of inequality, poverty and violence. We lose our way as we chase the next sale item. We forget which leads to life. The voices of refugees coming from the Middle Eastern deserts today challenge us to change our priorities.

Then the Lord will truly come and be God with us, our Emmanuel.

Give me the Grace O Loving God, to hear the voices calling to me from the deserts of our world. Show me how to change my ways and make you present in our world through compassion and generosity to those I need. Then this Christmas will truly be a celebration of Emmanuel, God is with us. Amen.

Source: Emmanuel - Daily Advent & Christmas Reflections 2016, P19 Sr Eileen Brown SGS

Annual School Report - Parent Survey

Parents are invited to participate in the preparation of the 2016 Annual School Report by completing a short online survey that will take only 2 or 3 minutes. Please click here to access the link.

Mr John Barrington, Principal
end of Year Parent Teacher Interviews
End of Year Parent Teacher Interviews for students from Years 7-10, will be held on Friday 16th December, 2016. Interviews will commence at 8:00am and conclude at 11:30am in the school Hall. Where possible, students are asked to attend the interviews with their parents/carers, wearing full school uniform.

**Bookings open on Thursday 1st December @ 9am. Bookings will close on Thursday 15th December @3pm.**

Bookings for Parent Teacher Interviews can be made through the Parent Portal. Please access the Portal via the school website> scroll to the bottom of the page to Quick Links> Parent/Carer Links> Parent Portal Logon or click here!

Reports for students in Years 7-10 will be published in the Parent Portal. Students will not be issued with a hard copy. It is hoped that all reports will be published in the Portal by close of business on Tuesday 13th December, prior to Presentation Day. If you have not yet registered for the Parent Portal, please email corradinip01@dow.catholic.edu.au to receive your registration information.

End of Year Awards 7-10
Parents of students in Years 7-10 will this year be notified by email if your child is receiving an Academic Award. This notification will be communicated as soon as recipients have been finalised which will take place over the next week.

END OF YEAR PRESENTATIONS
END OF YEAR PRESENTATIONS FOR STUDENTS IN YEARS 7-11 WILL BE HELD IN THE SCHOOL HALL, ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

**WEDNESDAY 14TH DECEMBER**

YEAR 9 - @ 9:30AM

YEAR 10 - @ 11:45AM

YEAR 11 - @ 1:45PM

**THURSDAY 15TH DECEMBER**

YEAR 8 - @ 9:30AM

YEAR 7 @ 11:45AM

STUDENTS WILL BE PERMITTED TO LEAVE WITH THEIR PARENTS AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE PRESENTATION.

Important Dates for your Diary

5/12 - Year 10 First Aid Course
9/12 - Giving Mass
14/12 - Presentation Day and Final Day for Years 9, 10 and 11
15/12 - Presentation Day and Final Day for Years 7 and 8
16/12 - Parent Teacher Interviews Years 7-10
19/12 - Staff Development Day
20/12 - Staff Development Day
End of Term 4

Canteen Roster 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Canteen Roster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5th Dec</td>
<td>Nicole Norris, Patricia Zanatta</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6th Dec</td>
<td>Elizabeth Oiteirin, Vanessa Orlandi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7th Dec</td>
<td>Nicole Oswald, Wayne Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8th Dec</td>
<td>Cathy Sperring, Sandy O’Connor, Joanne Barker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9th Dec</td>
<td>Amanda Walker, Nicki Collingburn</td>
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</tbody>
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**Vinnies Christmas Appeal**

Monday 5th December is the final day to bring in items to be donated to the Christmas Appeal. We have seen some great gifts including brightly coloured unicorns, baby dolls with strollers, skateboards, totem tennis, colouring books and toiletries. Remember that instead of baskets this year, Vinnies is requesting items to be donated in reusable bags. The donations will be presented at the Giving Mass next Friday which is one of the highlights of our school year. A huge thank you to all those families who have generously donated items to help restore hope to local families in need this Christmas.

*Miss Senita Hurley, Mission Coordinator*

**Uniform Shop Trading**

The shop will re-open on Friday 27th January from 9:30am-3pm and Monday 30th January from 12-4pm. Normal trading from Thursday 2nd February, 2017.

**Return to School Dates 2017**

Year 7, 2017 commence Tuesday 31st January, 2017

Years 8-12 commence Wednesday 1st February, 2017

**Only 25 days till Christmas!!!!!**
Evangelisation means proclaiming the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ. It’s goal is bringing people to faith through a personal encounter with Him. It is to be distinguished from Catechesis, which involves deepening and instructing that faith already received. So, in short, we are offering BOTH Evangelisation opportunities (experiences) and Catechesis opportunities (teaching and formation). When Christians live the life of Christ with deeper faith, their hope grows stronger and their charity more radiant. The ‘sense of adventure’ inspired by the new Evangelisation is all the more urgent in the context of growing numbers of non-practicing Catholics, under-catechised Catholics and other-than-Catholic students in our schools. All Christians receive the gift of faith at Baptism, and many others carry “the seeds of faith” within their hearts. But many of them need the Gospel to be proclaimed to them anew. This is not a matter of proselytising or “forcing beliefs” - quite the contrary. Genuine faith cannot be imposed: it is freely received or rejected. It’s exciting to see these ‘new Evangelisation’ activities increasing through the support of the Catholic Education Office and the Office of the Bishop. This Friday for example, we have 16 Joey’s students attending the all-day Diocesan Youth Festival at the Xavier Centre in Wollongong. This Diocesan wide youth event is an exciting initiative as our students will be meeting with and engaged with secondary students from every school across the Diocese of Wollongong. This in itself is exciting for our young people! This event will showcase brilliant musicians, engaging speakers, a festival atmosphere with big tent, live music and lots of youth-friendly activities throughout the day, leading into the Youth Rally this Friday night. For more information about Youth Ministry opportunities here at Joeys, please email me pannellm01@dow.catholic.edu.au or phone 42308504.

Mr Marty Pannell, Religious Education Coordinator

2016: COMMUNITY
Thank you!
As the 2016 school year comes to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the students, staff, parents, friends and community organisations who have been involved with sport this year. We have a fantastic sports program at St Joseph’s which has provided students with the opportunity to participate in a wide range of sports. I would like to particularly acknowledge the following sports instructors and organisations:

Warrigal Charters
Oak Flats Rollerskating Rink
Shellharbour Ten Pin Bowling
Eightfoxavenue Indoor Sports Centre
Savvy Fitness
Michelle & Brett Edwards Tennis Coaching
Illawarra Tennis Academy
Oak Flats Pool
Jessica Miller (Aqua Aerobics Instructor)
UOW Sport and Recreation and Sports Hub
Pines Surfing Academy
NSW Cricket
AFL NSW/ACT
Kazzajazz
Calderwood Valley Golf Course
Flip Out Warrawong
Jamberoo Valley Golf Course

St Joseph’s has many dedicated staff members who give up their time to organise and coach our various representative teams. To begin with the school support staff in the front office and IT Department who put permission notes together, collect money, update the school website and assist in the organisation of sporting activities. Thank you to the teachers who have given up their time before school, during recess and lunch, after school and sometimes over night to train and take teams away as well as the teachers who take extra classes when another teacher is absent at a sporting event. Thank you to the many parents who have assisted with coaching, managing, providing transportation, funding and cheering on sporting teams this year.

Congratulations to the following students who have been recognised by their coaches for their contribution to Term 4 representative sport. These students will receive certificates at their annual year presentations in Week 10:

Congratulations to Mathew Robinson in Year 9 who has been recognised for his achievements in the sport of Motocross. He was awarded the 2016 MX Junior 85CC 14 to 16 Champion at the Nowra MCC Presentation Day last weekend. This is a remarkable achievement considering that this is only his second year competing in the sport. Well done Mathew!

Good Luck to Izak Parkes who is travelling to New Zealand today to play for the Indigenous Australia Team in Oztag!

It has been a great year!! Let’s aim for even greater participation and sporting success in 2017.

Mrs Michelle Garbutt, Sports Coordinator
Berg Shield Round 3
Last Wednesday the Junior Boys Cricket Team travelled to Goulburn to take on Hennessey Catholic College (Young) in the 3rd Round of the Berg Shield. Winning the toss the opposition were invited to bat first under the threat of stormy skies. This decision paid immediate dividends with Josh Coombes taking a wicket in the first over. Ben Lavender again bowled his left arm spinners and almost nabbed another wicket but a tough catch went down. This would prove to be costly with this particular batter going on to score 103 in the next 25 overs. Josh Coombes bagged another wicket while Zane Mitchell and Callum Barton took one wicket each as Hennessey scored 174 off their 30 overs.

The run chase got off to a rocky start with Jackson Burns run out in the first over. A solid partnership from Ben (30) and Callum (28) followed with the side ahead on run rate after the first 10 overs. A couple of cheap wickets fell leaving Blake Smith (16) and Angus Murphy (27) with the task of rebuilding the innings which they set about doing with a minimum of fuss to again place the side ahead on run rate as the rain started to circle the ground. Unfortunately for the side the rain stayed away and more wickets fell. Despite the efforts of Macpherson McIlvain -Burns (6), Matthew Roach (10), Scott Murphy (6) and Kobe Ross (7) the side ran out of momentum and wickets to be dismissed for 144 in the final over - 30 runs short of their target.

The side has had a good run this term and deserve to be congratulated not only on their efforts but the good spirit they played the game in. Well done to the boys in Year 9 who move into the Open Team next year. The future looks promising with most of the team still in Year 7 and 8 and available next year. Thanks to Mr Lewis and Mr Preshaw who came along and assisted with umpiring and scoring on the day. Also the many parents, family and friends who attended all the games the side played this term, the boys appreciated your support. Finally a big thank you to the St Joseph’s P&F who provided the mini bus for the team to travel to Goulburn in. The team and their family were very appreciative of the support you provided.

Congratulations to Grace Thomas of Year 10 who, along with her Team - Team Draco, from “Academy of Cheer” won the National Cheerleading Competition at the Gold Coast in Senior Level 1, last weekend!! Cheerleading is a growing sport with some 10,000 competitors at this tournament in numerous cheer, dance and Pom Pom Competitions. Well done Grace!

Youth of the Year Competition Success!
On Thursday 24th November, Year 12 student Bailey Ryan participated in the Kiama Lions Club ‘Youth of the Year’ Competition. Bailey, being a dedicated 16 year old, had to present an application promoting his merits and skills. After a long process, he was able to obtain an interview with youth competition judges. The following night, Bailey presented his speech to a panel of judges on ‘Innovation in Australia’ and the need to pursue it further.

Bailey was awarded 1st place for his innovation speech, 2nd place for his interview and was highly praised by the judges, specifically for his answers to the impromptu questions which were regarded as some of the best they had ever seen.

His passion for Public Speaking started at the age of 13 when Bailey attended the South Coast Public Speaking Competition. He stated that this was the point when he ‘began to love it’. His determination and positive energy assists him in preparing and presenting to the best of his ability. Starting early, Bailey practices 20 plus times and faces his problems with calmness, optimism and a clear positive attitude.

Bailey’s Advice: If you are facing challenges, you have to accept the fact that you will fail, but what you do after you fail is what makes you. You need to stick to it. Public Speaking is an extremely important skill, so get started and get speaking!
Year 7 Mates Day!! (Mathematical Activities to Enrich Students)
This week, our Mathematics Faculty held their Annual MATES Day. The day is aimed to focus on both the concepts of Mathematics and how fun it can actually be when used in different ways. Mrs Stewardson and Mr Dobson ensured that a great experience was provided to Year 7 students and they were ably assisted by our Prac Teacher Tim! By all accounts it was a hugely successful day and planning is underway for next year’s event. Well done!

Great Day!!
Position Vacant
Tongarra Chicken Shop has a vacancy if you are interested email me for details ASAP.

DEVIIKA Learning- today Yr 9 students will be presented with course information for next year that will provide technological and employability skills. Ask your child about this workshop. More details will be provided soon for all parents.

The following is an extract from MHSCAREERS NEWS if you wish to see more please email sue.kennedy@dow.catholic.edu.au

TAFE Illawarra Choices Day
3rd December 2016, 9am to 1pm
Choices Day will be held at Nowra, Wollongong and Yallah campuses. The day will allow prospective students to find out about the courses TAFE offers across a range of disciplines. For further information, contact Roslyn Simmons at roslyn.simmons@tafensw.edu.au http://www.tafeillawarra.edu.au/

ADFA Education Award
For current year 11 students: Award presented to year 12 students in recognition of leadership potential, and academic and sporting achievements exhibited during year 11. Award comprises of laptop and certificate along with plaque of recognition for your school. For eligibility and application: http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/education/adfa/howToApply/educationAward.aspx

Pre-apprenticeships Course Finder
The Pre-apprenticeships Course Finder is one of the most popular pages on the Australian Apprenticeships & Traineeships Information Service website, with an average of around 4,300 direct hits a month. There are over 140 pre-apprenticeships currently active. www.aapathways.com.au/pcf

TAFE Pre-Apprenticeship Course
For students who are interested in undertaking a trade, TAFE offers pre-apprenticeship courses which can help students get started with a trade career. https://wsi.tafensw.edu.au/courses-and-careers/planning-your-career/apprenticeships-and-traineeships/pre-apprenticeship-training/

Big Day In: University of Newcastle
16th May 2017
The Big Day In is designed by students for students and is open for students in years 9 to 12 to attend if they are interested in a career in technology. http://acsfoundation.cart.net.au/BiG-Day-In-University-of-Newcastle-Tuesday-16-May-2017

University of Sydney Equity Scholarships
The University of Sydney offers Equity Scholarships for students commencing in 2017. These are applied for via UAC’s website. Scholarships include University of Sydney Bridging Course Scholarships, Burton Educational Trust Scholarship, Rural Sustainability Scholarships, Environmental Sustainability Scholarships, The William John and Lizzie May Sinclair Scholarship, Roy Frederick Turner AM Scholarship, Graham Daniels Scholarship in Engineering and Information Technologies, Peter Giles Memorial Scholarship in Pharmacy, Commonwealth Indigenous Scholarships, and University of Sydney Accommodation Scholarship. http://sydney.edu.au/scholarships/prospective/equity.shtml
Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT)
This website helps prospective uni students make informed choices about their future. QILT provides students with a broad range of information about Australian universities including graduate job prospects and student satisfaction and retention rates.
https://www.qilt.edu.au/

Tractor Free Online Course
Tractor Design School is offering a free online short course in typography so that you can get a taste of what they offer.
https://www.tractor.edu.au/lp/free-course/typography

NIDA Young Actors Studio
Sundays 11am-5pm for all of 2017 @ NIDA Sydney
Auditions: 4th December, 10am. Book online asap.

The Importance of Maths
Visit the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute’s website to view a range of career profiles from apprentice chefs to Electricians to Nurses where mathematics is a necessary part of their everyday jobs.

Air Force Jobs with just 1 or 2 Year’s Commitment
Pick one of these exciting roles and you’ll have the freedom to join the Air Force for just one or two years.
No strings attached.

Skill Gaps in the Australian Job Market
This article summarises some of the gaps in the Australian job market as of October 2016.

Woodwork Competition
For Australian secondary school students enrolled in Years 11 and 12 in 2016.
Students are invited to submit images and details of work of one or two pieces made as part of course work for Years 11 and 12 in 2016.
Closing Date Dec 15 2016.
Shellharbour City Council

CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

FRIDAY 9 DECEMBER 5.30 - 8.30pm
REDDALL RESERVE, LAKE ILLAWARRA

KIDS CONCERT 5.30-6.15pm
CAROLS 6.30-8.30pm
FIREWORKS 8.30pm

Hosted by Mel and Travis from Wave FM's Hot Breakfast

A FREE FAMILY EVENT CELEBRATING THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS!
**headspace is here to help**

**headspace centres** across Australia provide face-to-face information, support and services to young people, aged 12 to 25 years, and their families and friends.

**headspace** can help you with:

**Mental health and wellbeing**

**headspace** has youth friendly general practitioners (GPs) and health nurses who can help if you're experiencing significant changes in thoughts, feelings and/or behaviour, if you're being bullied, hurt or harassed or just not feeling yourself.

**General health**

**headspace** has youth friendly general practitioners (GPs) and health nurses who can help with any physical health issues. A GP can also help you with issues related to contraception, sexual health, drug or alcohol use, relationship problems or feeling down or upset.

**Alcohol and other drug services**

If drugs and alcohol are starting to affect things that matter to you, like your mental health, wellbeing or friendships, **headspace** can help.

**Work, school and study**

**headspace** work and study specialists can help if you're struggling at school, unsure what course you want to do, need a hand writing a resume, or if you are searching for a job.

Online and telephone support is also available through eheadspace. (There is more information about eheadspace over the page.)

**headspace centres**

**headspace centres** help you to access the type of health worker you need. This could be a GP, psychologyst, social worker, alcohol and drug worker, counsellor, vocational worker or youth worker. A number of centres also have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workers, welfare workers and family therapists.

You can visit a **headspace centre** no matter how big or small your problem may seem.

**Making an appointment at headspace**

It's as simple as phoning or emailing your nearest **headspace centre** to find a time that suits you. You can also ask a friend, teacher, parent, other family member, health worker or community agency to contact **headspace** for you.

Your local **headspace centre** might also have a ‘drop in’ service where you can visit anytime in their visiting hours. Call your nearest **headspace centre** or check out headspace.org.au to find out more about what services are available.

**Aged between 12-25 years?**

**headspace** can help if you:

- Are feeling down, stressed or can’t stop worrying
- Don’t feel like yourself anymore
- Can’t deal with school/uni/work or are finding it difficult to concentrate
- Are feeling sick or worried about your health
- Have questions about, or want to cut down on alcohol or other drug use
- Want to talk about sexuality, gender identity or relationships
- Are having difficulties with your family or friends
- Have sexual health issues or want information about contraception
- Are being bullied, hurt or harassed
- Are worried about work or study or if you’re having money trouble
- Need someone to talk to.

Getting support can help you to keep you on track at school, study or work, and in your personal and family relationships. The sooner you get help the sooner things can begin to improve for you.
How headspace can help

Your first appointment at headspace

Appointments at a headspace centre can vary in length but are usually 50 minutes to an hour.

It’s okay to feel nervous about getting help for the first time. It can be helpful to bring along a family member, carer or friend to help support you.

You’ll probably be asked a lot of questions on your first visit. This is to make sure that all the important issues are covered, and to help develop the best solution for you. As you get to know and trust your headspace worker you will probably find that talking about what is going on gets easier.

The appointment is your time. Feel free to ask questions about anything that’s on your mind so the headspace worker can help you find the best solution, or find the information that you need. It also helps the headspace worker to understand what is worrying you.

Cost

Services at a headspace centre are either free, or have a low cost. You can ask if there is a cost when you make your appointment.

Some services require you to have a referral from a doctor. But don’t worry; headspace can help you with this as well.

All eheadspace services are free but if you call from your mobile your usual call charges apply.

eheadspace

If you don’t have a headspace centre nearby or you don’t feel ready to visit a centre, eheadspace provides confidential online and telephone support 7 days a week.

To access eheadspace for the first time all you need to do is register at eheadspace.org.au or phone 1800 650 890. You will need to provide some information like your email address, postcode and age. eheadspace sessions are generally for 30-60 minutes.

Confidentiality

When you talk to a headspace worker what you say is kept confidential. This means nothing you say can be passed on to anyone else without your permission however there are a few exceptions.

If headspace is seriously worried about your safety or the safety of someone else they must – by law – try to keep everyone safe.

This means they might have to share their concerns with someone else. Talk to your headspace worker about confidentiality to ensure you understand how it works.

Getting the help that’s right for you

When you talk with a headspace worker it’s important that you feel safe and comfortable – headspace will do its best to make sure this happens.

If you do not think your headspace visits are working out it is important to ask yourself why. There could be a few reasons: it might be because it is hard to talk about what’s on your mind, or it might be that you and your worker are not the right fit. Either way, don’t give up. Talk to your worker about how you are feeling and together you can find a way forward.

If you need immediate medical attention, call 000 or call Lifeline on 13 11 14 or Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800.

For more information, to find your nearest headspace centre or for online and telephone support, visit headspace.org.au

Fact sheets are for general information only. They are not intended to be and should not be relied on as a substitute for specific medical or health advice. While every effort is taken to ensure the information is accurate, headspace makes no representations and gives no warranties that this information is correct, current, complete, reliable or suitable for any purpose.

We disclaim all responsibility and liability for any direct or indirect loss, damage, cost or expense whatsoever in the use of or reliance upon this information.