

Weekly Newsletter

WEEK 7 - TERM 1

ST RITA'S SCHOOL SOUTH JOHNSTONE



11th March 2014

Dear Parents and Caregivers

This Friday the Year Fours to Seven will travel to Innisfail State College for the annual Silkwood Mena Creek Soccer/Netball Day. The children will partake in games and training sessions. Parents are welcome to attend as in past years. Just a reminder that all raffle tickets, sold or unsold, **need to be returned to school by Thursday morning**. St Rita's children will be attending the event regardless of the weather. The cost of the bus will be added in to next term's activity levy. **Just take note that there is no tuckshop on Friday for Years Prep to 3 students.**

Weather permitting, by the end of this week, our covered walkway may be complete. The next major project on our calendar will be the erection of a permanent fence in front of the carpark near the Prep room.

Please keep the Blanckensee family in your prayers as Zack's (Year One) great grandfather passed away last week. Also keep Mrs Riera in your prayers as she rests in hospital with high blood pressure.

A fabulous evening was held last Friday night for the first P & F function of the year, with approximately 25 families attending.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the movie and treats while the parents kept themselves entertained with celebrity heads. Thank you to everyone who helped in coordinating the event and helping out on the night.

Next Monday night students from St Rita's under Mrs Kenny's direction will participate in the annual St. Patrick's Day concert. This is always a great night of entertainment.

Just a reminder that Funky Hair Day is March 21st due to the Soccer/Netball day.

A thought for the week, never give up your dreams: Walt Disney was fired from a newspaper for "lacking imagination" and "having no original ideas". Albert Einstein wasn't able to speak until he was almost four years old and his teachers said he would "never amount to much". Never give up.

Have a great week. God bless.
Vicki

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION KEEPING THE GOSPEL ALIVE IN LENT

During Lent the church asks adults to fast, pray and give alms. Alms are gifts to the poor. Fasting means eating less than usual. Catholics over the age of 14 are asked not to eat meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Young people can share the spirit of fasting by giving up something they enjoy, like sweets or junk food or tv. They can do good works like offering to do extra jobs around the house or by giving part of their pocket money to people in need. These are called sacrifices. They are good deeds, done in God's name, that show our love of God and sorrow for sins.

Last Sunday was the first Sunday of Lent and traditionally the gospel always tells about the time when Jesus spent forty days fasting and being tempted in the wilderness. It begs the question : *How am I fasting this Lenten season ?*

While there is often much discussion at this time of the year as to which foods we are giving up (and rightly so), the following reflection presents a different view of fasting for Lent.

HOW TO FAST



Fast from judging others: Feast on Christ dwelling in them.

Fast from apparent darkness: Feast on the reality of light.

Fast from pessimism: Feast on the reality of light.

Fast from thoughts of illness: Feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute: Feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from anger: Feast on patience.

Fast from worry: Feast on Divine Providence.

Fast from unrelenting pressure: Feast on unceasing prayer.

Fast from negatives: Feast on positives.

Fast from complaining: Feast on appreciation.

Fast from hostility: Feast on non-resistance.

Fast from bitterness: Feast on forgiveness.

Fast from anxiety: Feast on hope.

Fast from yourself: Feast on a silent heart.



PROJECT COMPASSION NEWS :

Week Two

DENG FROM SOUTH SUDAN

Deng, 50 grew up with his family in Barmayen Village, South Sudan

When Deng was six, he became very ill and his right side became partially paralysed. Not letting this deter him, he happily returned to the peaceful life he knew and loved.

In 1993, civil war broke out and everything changed. Deng, his family and other villagers fled for the bush, leaving their homes behind.

" We were unable to be in our village, life was unbearable and all the time we kept hiding from the militia."

During this time Deng's eyes became infected and he lost his sight, making life even harder for him and his family.

In 2005, the civil war ended and they were able to move back home. To assist with resettling, Caritas Australia's partner, Hope Agency for Relief and Development provided Deng and his wife, Aketch with two goats, five chickens, fishing nets and a selection of seeds to plant. They are now confident of a more secure future and are happy their children can attend school.

" Thank you very much and God bless you abundantly," said Deng.

View a short film online about life in South Sudan and how Deng and his family are rebuilding their lives at www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion

Have a great week and let's try to remember just how fortunate we are.

Peace be with you,
Denise



FUNKY HAIR & FREE DRESS DAY

WEEK 8 - FRIDAY, 21ST MARCH

Your generous donation will help raise funds for the Leukemia Foundation.

\$2 per child

Or

\$5 per family of 3 or more children.

PLEASE GIVE THE MONEY TO THE CLASSROOM TEACHERS.

SCHOOL FEES ARE NOW OVERDUE!



Thank you to those families who have paid their school fees. Please make every effort to pay any outstanding fees as a matter of urgency so that the school can meet it's financial obligations. If you are having difficulty paying please contact Jenni or Vicki.

Remember not to pay is not an option. New fee collection procedures will be activated according to Catholic Education Cairns new fee collection policy.

DIRECT DEBITING SCHOOL PAYMENTS

Please indicate in your description whether the amount is for fees or other. Amounts without a description will automatically go against school fees.

Account Name: RCTC for the Diocese of Cairns - St Rita's School, South Johnstone

Account No: 00000 50 18 BSB: 084352

DATE CLAIMER

ST RITA'S FETE
SATURDAY 31ST MAY, 2014
4.00PM - 9.00PM

NO NORMAL TUCKSHOP THIS WEEK due to Soccer/Netball Carnival

SILKWOOD MENA CREEK HAMPER RAFFLE TICKETS

The raffle will be drawn on Friday 14th March. Tickets are priced + \$1 each. Prizes are listed on the cover of the ticket books.

TICKETS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE, (sold or unsold), NO LATER THAN TOMORROW, 12TH MARCH.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB ISSUE 2

Please have your order into the school office by **THIS WEDNESDAY, 12TH MARCH.** Please make cheques payable to the school.

HOMEWORK CLUB

This facility operates due to the commitment of the St Rita's staff on a volunteer roster and is NOT to be used as a baby-sitting service for beauty appointments and coffee dates. The teachers are giving their precious time and are all parents a well. Abuse of the facility may see your children being disallowed useage.

The facility operates from Monday to Friday. A teacher will be on duty each day until **4.30pm**.

A booking sheet operates through the school office.

Children **MUST** be booked in to use the facility **BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN** as there are days that Homework Club cannot run due to staff responsibilities off campus.

HEART FOUNDATION - WALKERS WANTED.

Do you enjoy walking? Would you like to be more active and meet some new people? Then why not join Heart Foundation Walking? A Walking Group is starting in South Johnstone on Thursday mornings. Please contact Sharon on 40 643 410.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - TERM 1



2014 SCHOOL CAPTAINS

Back Row: Travis Calleja, Lilly Hunter, Brody Manitto, Caitlin Spinella, Jordan Lindsay and Bonnie Hunter **Front Row:** Jordon Davies, Rebecca Piccolo, Miki Buchanan, Natasja Crowley, Gemma Doolan and Eamonn Ross



Yr 6/7 students taking part in IGA Grass Roots Soccer Program

**PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS
WILL TAKE PLACE IN WEEK 10**



MUNRO THEATRE BABINDA

14TH, 15TH & 16TH March

Commencing 7.30pm
Admission \$8

"The Railway Man"
- Rated: M

MARCH

WEEK 7

10	P & F Meeting
14	SMCPSA Netball/Soccer Day

WEEK 8

17	St Patrick's Day Liturgy
21	Funky Hair Day (New date)

APRIL

WEEK 10 – PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

1	Palmy/Fitzy Cross Country
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Easter Assembly Parent –v- Kids League Tag Comp

DATES TO REMEMBER

TERM 2

21 st April	Easter Monday
22 nd April	Start of Term
25 th April	Anzac Day
9 th May	Mother's Day Morning Tea
11 th May	Mother's Day
13, 14 & 15 May	NAPLAN
19 th May	Book Fair
21 st May	School Photos
31 st May	FETE
9 th June	Queen's Birthday Holiday
27 th June	End of Term

TERM 3

11 th July	Innisfail & District Show
14 th July	Start of Term
27 th July – 1 st Aug	Catholic Education Week
18 th & 19 th Aug	Prep/Year 1 Camp
27, 28 & 29 Aug	Year 4/5 Camp
14 th to 18 th Sept	Year 6/7 Camp
19 th Sept	End of Term

TERM 4

6 th Oct	Labour Day Holiday
7 th Oct	Start of Term
8 th	Parent Session – Puberty Talk 2-3
22 nd Oct	Wonder of Living (Years 1-7)
31 st Oct	World Teachers Day
4 th Nov	Melbourne Cup Luncheon
10 th – 14 th Nov	Prep to Year 2 Swimming
17 th – 21 st Nov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 3 to 7 Swimming Christmas Book Fair
11 th	Remembrance Day
5 th Dec	End of Term

National Lament

An Overview of the Call for a National Lament Over People Seeking Asylum

"We are a society which has forgotten how to weep." - Pope Francis

Many people throughout Australia are disturbed by the punitive and harsh policies and conditions to which people seeking asylum in Australia are being subjected.

The recent incident on Manus Island and the death of one person and the injury of many highlights the lack of care and dignity in the policies of both the Government and the Opposition and the absence of awareness of their legal and moral responsibilities.

In response to the desire for prayer and action, Catholic Religious Australia is inviting you to participate in a "National Lament".

We are taking our inspiration from the words of Pope Francis when he visited Lampedusa, Italy.

The National Lament is a campaign of prayer, penance and action for people seeking asylum in Australia.

We are seeking to make a Christian response to these people, rather than treating them as a "problem" to be solved.

The National Lament will have 2 parts:

Part 1 - Engaging in prayer, penance and action for people seeking asylum in Australia by:

- making Friday in Lent a day of prayer and penance for people seeking asylum
- continuing this practice after Lent through to the Ascension
- writing to one's local Federal member and to the Minister, Scott Morrison, expressing our lament for people seeking asylum in Australia

Part 2 - Engaging in a Week of Prayer and Prophetic Presence during Ascension to Pentecost, 1 to 8 June 2014.

Participate in the National Lament using the **Reflection and Prayer Sheet** overleaf.

Write to your local Federal member and to Minister Scott Morrison using the letter sample/template National Lament Campaign Letter at the website:

www.catholicreligiousaustralia.org (Some are also available in the church.)

***For more information, email Suzette Clark at:
justice@catholicreligiousaustralia.com.au***



National Lament

We are a society which has forgotten how to weep

Pope Francis

Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of country throughout Australia.
As you take your next step remember the first people who walked this land.

Aboriginal Catholic Ministry, Sydney

Our Lament

We lament the lack of compassion for people seeking asylum in Australia
We lament the denial of human dignity and freedom
We lament the indifference
We lament our inability to turn the tide

Our Challenge

"The other" is no longer a brother or sister to be loved, but simply someone who disturbs my life and my comfort...

In this globalized world, we have fallen into globalized indifference. We have become used to the suffering of others: it doesn't affect me; it doesn't concern me; it's none of my business!

Pope Francis, Lampedusa 8.7.2013

Our Prayer

We beg forgiveness for our indifference to so many of our brothers and sisters.
God, we ask your pardon for those who are complacent and closed
amid comforts which have deadened their hearts;
we beg your forgiveness for those who by their decisions on the global level
have created situations that lead to these tragedies.
Forgive us, Lord!

Pope Francis, Lampedusa 8.7.2013

For Reflection

Jesus said, "An evil spirit of this kind is only driven out by prayer and fasting"

Mark 9: 29

Our Response

- Make Friday a day of prayer and penance
- Write to your local member and to the Minister, Scott Morrison, expressing your lament for people seeking asylum in Australia