

Newsletter

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Newsletter No 9 Term 4 2nd December 2021

Fr Steve's Homily:

Please click on Father Steve's image using this link to view last week's mass: http://www.pol.org.au/diamondcreek

Dear Sacred Heart families and friends,

It always feels at this time of the year that there is a sense of urgency among us. It's like we are all rushing to meet a deadline and that deadline is Christmas day! How many times do we hear people say, I have so much to do before Christmas. Some of us even count down the days, often though, not with a sense of excitement but with fear and dread for all the things we need to do between now and then. There are so many boxes to tick between now and when the Christmas roast comes out of the oven – and the list just seems to get longer!

How nice would it be if we could just buy a bit of time to stop and be reflective at this time of the Year. That a gift it would be just to have a couple more days to give us some breathing space. Unfortunately, I think we would probably just find more things to do to fill in the time.

Our Church presents us with a very different approach as to how we should attend to these last few weeks of the year. We have entered the season of Advent in the Christian Church. To us it is like a pre-Christmas gift. A gift that gives us permission to breathe, to take time to reflect on our year, to be grateful for all the blessings in our lives and most importantly to prepare for the coming of Jesus, the true gift of Christmas.

Now you might say, that is all well and good, but I still have all these things to get done, to tick off my list, I haven't got time to reflect, to breathe and perhaps even to pray.

Pope Francis speaks about advent as a time when we should be focussing on the search for peace as we prepare for the coming of Jesus, at Christmas. This Advent season, he says, is the time to be humble and try to build peace in our souls, in our families and in the world.

It's really not that hard to find a few minutes in the day to breath, to count our blessings, to say a short prayer for peace, to light a candle in remembrance of a loved one, to make time to listen to the needs of another, to lift someone's spirits with a kind word or simple gesture. By doing these things we answer Francis' call to bring a little peace to our world, our family and our own soul.

Yours sincerely,

Jim & Gina



Catholic Identity

Sunday 5 December is the Second Sunday in Advent.

Advent Calendars, it's not too late!

We all struggle with it, don't we? We want and need to keep our family's focus on the true meaning of the Christmas holiday—the celebration of the birth of Christ Jesus—but it's so easy for the message to be lost in the hustle and chaos of the season. As we count down the days to Christmas, a great way to keep the focus on Jesus is to use a time-honored tradition—the advent calendar.

What is an advent calendar? The word advent literally means arrival or appearance, and we celebrate Advent—the first Christian season—to commemorate the most important arrival in history, the appearance of our Saviour, the birth of Jesus. And an Advent calendar gives us a tool to help us count down each day in the season, building in anticipation of the celebration of Christ's birth!

How does an advent calendar work? While the date for Advent Sunday varies each year—Advent begins on November 28th in 2021, most Advent calendars begin on December 1 and continue for 24 days. One window, page, or entry is designated for each day through Christmas Eve. Daily entries help tell the story, many with a devotion or Scripture to reinforce the true meaning of Christmas for the whole family.

How to use an advent calendar? Amid the busyness of the season, it can be difficult to remember to stop—take a break from shopping, decorating, and baking for some time together to reflect upon the true reason we celebrate this season. This time is important, so cherish these moments together. Enjoy your family's advent traditions (or start fresh this year!) with some simple steps.

First choose an advent calendar you love. The simplest can be posted on the wall, the fridge, or anywhere in your home; others range from tabletop devotionals to themed and decorative choices. Some families make an advent calendar to suit their taste, which brings a personalised touch to the celebrations. Whether your family chooses a traditional advent calendar or a modern themed advent calendar, the time spent together will add excitement and discovery to your Christmas celebrations.

Choose a time each day to connect and spend time as a family around the calendar. Hit "pause" on the chaos of the day, and slow down to connect around a devotion or a bit of the Nativity story together. Personalise your Advent celebration with traditions that are meaningful to your family. Some families celebrate with a sweet treat or a small gift each day, or by lighting a candle each Sunday. When searching for advent calendar ideas, consider what else could make the time extra special for you and your loved ones? Why not ask everyone to reflect on and discuss the day's devotion, write a sentence or two each in a shared journal or jot down something they found meaningful on slips of paper, placing each in a beautiful container to be shared later or looked back on next year (and the year after that...). These thoughts will become treasured parts of your annual advent celebration.

The last, most important step—prioritise the time each day! Keep your commitment to come together each day to remember and celebrate the reason for the season.





Student of the Week

Value = Empathy

Prep NC Delilah Hodgson & Josephine McIlroy

1/2 CN Audrey Hodgson1/2 PA Owen Valentine3/4 NJ Marcus Mennilli

3/4 RM Harry Lord 5/6 JD Liam O'Reilly 5/6 MM Sophie Wright PE Eloise Ross

LOTE Tadhg Keating

STEM Grace Broderick & Shaye Pearce

Performing Arts Miller Burns

Visual Arts Caitlin Waddington



















SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL Heneral News

Student leaders 2022:

Yesterday we announced the student leaders for 2022. Congratulations to all our Year 6, 2022 students, as they embark on the final year of their primary education in their role of leaders of the school.

2022 SCHOOL LEADERS

Amelia Campbell Miki Berriman

BUNJIL HOUSE LEADERS

MACKILLOP HOUSE LEADERS

CORDNER HOUSE LEADERS

Zara Campbell Maddi Arvaji Tom O'Keefe

FIRE Carrier Leaders
Mini Vinnie Leaders
Sustainability Leaders
Religious Education Leaders
Wellbeing Leaders
Languages Leaders

Charlie Rowley, Isla Brooks and Miaa Mitrovski Jeremy Collins and Leo Liu Zarah Clough and Grace Topolcsanyi Grace O'Keefe and Scarlett Oke Rhylee Keating and Bella-Rose Sparks Jacoby Turner and Liam O'Reilly

Prep celebration video:

Today all Foundation families will have received an email link with a recording of the Foundation celebration. We would like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate the parents of these students. It has been another challenging year with remote learning and we know that this time was a challenge for many families. It has been a great pleasure to watch the students mature and develop into the wonderful learners they have become.

Elf on the Shelf:

It is beginning to feel a lot like Christmas at Sacred Heart. Starting yesterday and through the rest of the school year we will have an elf on the shelf popping up in different places over the school. Take a close look at our elf!



Plant Sale:

For a number of years now, Peter Rickard has been maintaining the gardens around the Church, the Hall and the school grounds. During this time, Peter has accrued a large number of potted plants that cannot be used by the school and therefore have been made available to be sold to the school and parish community. These potted plants, shrubs and trees are located at the end of the Hall/School driveway and behind the Year 5/6 classroom block.

Our Mini Vinnies group will conduct a Potted Plant Sale each afternoon for members of our school and parish community to come along and buy some plants for their gardens. The proceeds from this sale will go to the Sacred Heart St. Vincent de Paul society for their Christmas program. All plants are priced according to their size at \$2, \$5, \$10 or a donation. Please see flyer below.

Student News:

Congratulations to Lily Arvaji who participated in the junior parkrun and ran a PB of 12.02 sec taking 33 seconds off her previous PB.

16 Days of Activism:

This year, the Sacred Heart community will once again participate in the United Nations 16 Days of Activism. The theme for this year is 'Orange the world: End violence against women'. During this time, from the 25th November to the 10th of December, students will engage in discussions around equality and respect for everyone, and will participate in creating a book about emotions as part of their Social Emotional Learning.

We thank Nillumbik Council for once again providing a grant towards this project.

16 Days of Activism connects to our work at Sacred Heart in Respectful Relationships, and this term, all classes are learning about positive gender relations as part of the Resilience, Rights and Respectful Relationships program. On Friday 10th December, students will be invited to wear free dress for our house points celebration, and we will be selling icy poles for \$1 each to raise money for the United Nations Trust to End Violence Against Women.



Past Student News:

Congratulations to Evey Hunter (Year 10 CLC) who was presented with the Community Service Award. In addition, the Year 10 Australian Defence Force Future Innovators Award was also presented to Evey. This award acknowledges the achievements of young people in Years 10 and 12 who have demonstrated motivation and innovation in the areas of STEM within their school, for displaying strong personal ethical values and for always doing their best. Well done Evey.

Year 5/6 Open Water Learning Experience:

All Year 5/6 students participated in a Life Saving Victoria Open Water Learning Experience (OWLE) program at Sandridge Beach in Port Melbourne on Tuesday.

LSV's Open Water Learning Experience (OWLE) program creates 'Everyday Lifesavers' out of Victorian students, by teaching them practical and engaging water safety, lifesaving and emergency response skills. The OWLE program is designed to empower students to make safe aquatic related decisions while enjoying their local waterway. The OWLE program is ideal to enhance our school's swimming and water safety program. The overwhelming feedback from the students was that it was a great day.

Transition:

All students in Foundation to Year 5 will be involved in some transition activities in order to support them with transition into 2022. The final session will be held tomorrow.

Parents Association AGMs

The Parents Association AGM was held on Monday night. We thanked J'Rhette Bishop who has held the position of President over a number of years and has led a great team to ensure families and students had opportunities while raising funds for the school. We also thanked Chiquita Keating for her work in the Tuckshop, Angela McIlroy for her coordination of the Uniform Shop, Janelle Pearce as Secretary and Liz Nardella as Treasurer. Thank you also to the great team behind these people. We thank Emma Doville for putting her hand up to coordinate the Tuckshop in 2022 and to Stephanie Lewis who will take over the role of Treasurer/Secretary for 2022. We are still looking for a President if there is anyone willing to take on this role.

Out of School Hours Care:

For many years now OSHClub has provided Before and After School Care programs for Sacred Heart. These have consistently been high quality programs and our students and their families have always felt respected and well cared for by the OSHClub staff and by the company itself. OSHClub has maintained the provision of both programs (Before and After School care) even though the Sacred Heart programs are small and not profitable, with the Before School program costing OSHClub to maintain it. It is to OSHClub's great credit that they did this for a number of years in order to continue to meet the needs of our community.

The last two years have been difficult for businesses of all types, including OSHClub, and last year they made a business decision to stop providing a Before School care program for Sacred Heart. However OSHClub decided to retain the Before School Care program for the remainder of the existing contract period after further discussion with MACS.

As this contract period ends in July 2022 we entered into discussions with OSHClub to ascertain whether the provision of both programs could be guaranteed in the next contract. They were not able to give us the certainty that we desired for our families post July 2022. We informed OSHClub that, due to this uncertainty, unfortunately we would not be continuing with them in 2022.

Therefore we investigated other Out of School Hours Care providers and are delighted to inform you that for the next 3 years VillageOSHC (part of the Extend OSHC group) will be the providers for both Before and After School Care programs at Sacred Heart PS. We look forward to working with VillageOSHC to continue to meet the needs of our families for this service.

We are also delighted to inform you that Leanne Trevor, our current program coordinator, has been employed as the coordinator for our program with VillageOSHC.

Awards Ceremony:

We will be holding our Awards Ceremony on Thursday 9th December at 2.20pm. We will recognise our leaders of 2021 and introduce the school leaders of 2022. Students from each class will be acknowledged for a Principal Award and Endeavour Award and Excellence Awards will also be presented. This assembly will be held in the church and families are able to attend, all Government COVID regulations will apply.

Transition to Secondary School:

We wish our Year 6 students the best of luck as they experience transition to Secondary school over the next week.

Graduation Mass/Dinner – Wednesday 8th December, 6.00 pm:

All Year 6 students and their families are invited to attend Mass as the major celebration of their child's involvement in the Sacred Heart Primary School community. Students, dressed in neat, casual, appropriate clothes, are to meet their teachers in the Hall at 5.45pm. They will process into the Church as a group and will be seated together at the front of the Church. A family event has been arranged at Bridges after Mass. Please note that proof of vaccination or proof of exemption must be shown on the night.

End of Year Mass - Wednesday 15th December - 12 noon:

Families are welcome to attend, proof of vaccination or proof of exemption will be required.

School Fees:

The 2022 School Fee Pack has been emailed to all families on Operoo. This Pack outlines the Fees and Levies that will be charged next year and includes a Direct Debit form for you to complete should you wish to take up this option. Families will not be invoiced until January 2022.

Annual Christmas Raffle

Unfortunately due to many events being cancelled over the last 2 years, we have been unable to raise the funds we would normally do to put towards value resources and programs that enhance our children's school experience. We are really hoping you and your family and friends can support our major fundraising activity for 2021 – the Annual Christmas Raffle. There are fantastic prizes to win – so get selling and good luck! Raffle books have been sent home with students and you can purchase them on line via CDFPAY.



Sacred Heart Christmas Raffle



It's that time of year already! Please find attached your Christmas Raffle tickets for 2021.

Tickets are \$2 each and there are 25 tickets attached. (Feel free to purchase as many as you like)

The Raffle will be drawn on Wednesday 15th December



1st prize \$300 Crown voucher 2nd prize Clare Scent Candle Hamper value \$150+

3rd prize \$100 Endota spa voucher

4th prize \$50 Bunnings voucher

Please return your money and tickets to the office no later than Monday 13th December.

Name	
I have paid via CDF I have enclosed a total amount of \$	
Quantity	

PLANT SALE MONDAY TO THURSDAY

6 - 9 DECEMBER

3 PM TO 3.40 PM

Enter via hall driveway

Small pots \$2.00

Medium Pots \$5.00

Large Pots \$10.00

of potted plants

\$ \$ Cash only please All donations to Mini Vinnies



Wellbeing

The Resilience Project:

In our world today, we know that mental health is a critical component in the overall health of a young person. Unfortunately, we are seeing young people increasingly struggle in this area:

- 1 in 4 adolescents will experience mental health problems this year
- 1 in 7 primary school students will experience mental health problems this year
- Mental Health Disorders carry the largest burden of disease for 15 24-year olds
- Suicide is the **most common cause of death** for 15 24-year olds
- 1 in 5 adults will experience mental health problems this year
- · 65% of adolescents will **not seek help**

In 2022, Sacred Heart Primary School will continue their partnership with The Resilience Project in order to help students develop the skills, strategies and mindset so that their wellbeing and mental health can flourish. The Resilience Project is a Wellbeing Program with a rich curriculum based on 4 key themes: Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness and Emotional Literacy. Throughout the Sacred Heart weekly Wellbeing Program, students will be taught to focus on the positive aspects of their lives with a spirit of being grateful. They will also learn to understand others, to feel and see what they do and practice being kind and compassionate to each other. The Resilience Project also teaches young people to be calm and present in any given moment and to understand their own emotions to better manage them.

This evidence-based program is an exciting initiative so that we can continue our mission of creating students who are compassionate, people of integrity and the best versions of themselves. As well as a weekly lesson delivered by staff, the program will also involve student, staff and parent presentations by Martin Heppell, a member of The Resilience Project Team, so that we are taking a whole school approach to wellbeing. The language and practices of gratitude, empathy, mindfulness and emotional literacy need to permeate all aspects of life. Parents are also encouraged to be involved in this wellbeing journey and discuss and practice at home these key themes with their children and with a rich source of information through the IRP@Home website. Further information regarding these presentations will be distributed at the beginning of the new academic year.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SEASONS & WESTMEAD FEELINGS PROGRAM 2022:

We are seeking any expression of interest for your child/ren to be involved in two different programs in 2022.

Seasons for Growth:

Seasons for Growth is a small group program that combines psychology and education with peer support, within a person centred learning approach. It uses the metaphor of the seasons to explore the cyclic nature of grief, and is underpinned by William Worden's tasks of grieving. The Children and Young People's program contains developmentally appropriate discussions and activities. Seasons for Growth normalises participants' experiences, and can increase protective factors (including building personal resilience and social skills) while minimising some risk factors (including isolation) that influence mental health and wellbeing. The program also supports the development of communication, decision making and problem solving skills.

How is it delivered? The Program is run over 8 sessions with small groups of 4-7 participants and is facilitated by trained adult "Companions". The participants are provided with a safe space to learn, share and reflect and are supported by richly illustrated participant journals.

Outcomes Seasons for Growth provides the support and space for children and young people to:

- Learn about how different people respond to change, loss and grief
- Understand that it is normal to experience a range of grief reactions
- Explore new approaches to dealing with change, loss and grief in their lives
- Build communication, decision making and problem solving skills
- Participate in a supportive network of peers and adults

Integrate their new learning into their relationships with family, friends and others.

Westmead Feelings Program:

This program has been developed by the Children's Hospital at Westmead, Sydney. It has been run for many years at the hospital clinic and is now being offered in schools. The Westmead Feelings Program (WFP) is an evidence-based clinical intervention designed specifically to teach social and emotional skills to children. The WFP is grounded in theory and has a strong evidence base to support its clinical effectiveness. The WFP aims to enhance the emotional awareness of children by building on their knowledge of their own and others' emotions, developing their skills in perspective-taking and empathy, and enhancing their capacity to regulate their own emotions, in particular, managing negative or unpleasant emotions. The WFP is tailored to the unique thinking and learning style of individuals with ASD but has been found to also be useful for other children with social-emotional difficulties (such as language impairments or social communication difficulties). The WFP teaches social and emotional skills in a coherent and developmental oriented framework. The WFP is designed to meet the learning needs of children aged 6 to 12 years.

The Westmead Feelings Program (WFP) is designed to be facilitated by psychologists or specifically trained teachers. Throughout 2020 Gina Murphy and Sandy Morgan undertook this training and are now qualified facilitators of the program. During 2022 we will be offering this program to students in Year 1/2 and Year 3/4. The program includes 5 sessions per term for students and 2 sessions per term for teachers and parents where they are trained to be emotion coaches, using the same techniques taught to the students. For your child to be eligible, parent/s must also commit to attending parent sessions. Groups are limited to 6-8 students.

If you have any questions, we would be happy to speak with you. If you would like your child to be considered for either of these groups please email gmurphy@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au or smorgan@shdiamondcreek.catholic.edu.au

Westmead Feeling Program Parent Session:

On Tuesday 7 December we have a parent session for parents of the students that have participated in the Westmead Feelings Program in 2021. This will be held in the Community Centre. Please park down the driveway between the school and the station and enter via the side doors. Keeping with directives all families must provide proof of vaccination.

parenting * ideas

INSIGHTS

Respond honestly to dishonesty



You enter the kitchen. Your child looks at you like she's hiding something. You see cake crumbs on the bench and the tips of her fingers. 'Did you eat the chocolate cake?' Your child smiles at you, with chocolate stuck in her teeth, and innocently replies, 'No.'

You know your child is not telling the truth. The evidence is everywhere! So, what do you do?

Honesty is an essential value for children and young people to develop as it's central to building trust and community cohesion. Here are some simple, effective ways to encourage your child to be honest.

Remember, telling fibs is normal

Catching your child in a lie can be frustrating, but remembering that it's a normal part of growing up can help you keep calm. While there is a moral aspect to honesty, children in the early years of primary school tend to be very concrete thinkers, responding better to your immediate concerns such as 'I need to know you are telling the truth' instead of the moral aspects of right and wrong. For older primary aged children and teenagers, the broader issues of trust and morality are parts of the conversations you should have.

Don't ask questions if you know the answer

If your son is smeared in chocolate cake, don't say, 'Did you eat the chocolate cake?' Instead try, 'I can see you ate some chocolate cake. You must have been hungry huh?' Then pause and ask, 'Do you think I'm pleased or upset? Why? What should we do next time?' Use the awkward situation as an opportunity to find out more about what your child may need.

Show the truth

If you are a parent of a teenager, you know how easily parent-teen relationships can be harmed by accusations and criticism. If you think that a teenager may have mislead you about an area of concern such as not being where they said they were, then it's probably wisest to bring your young person's attention to evidence of the truth rather than back them into a corner with an accusation. "You said you were at Jana's, but her mum said that Jana didn't have any visitors yesterday" is a statement of truth from your perspective that's invites a response from a young person.

Listen to their side

Things often aren't as they seem so if you think your child or young person is not being completely honest, be prepared to listen to their side of a story. This is not to suggest that you let them pull the proverbial wool over your eyes, but there are times when kids may believe they are telling the truth. Alternatively, they may have told a lie to keep themselves safe or to prevent them from following the crowd. Get your child talking, ascertain if they believe they are being truthful, and if they aren't, listen to why they bent the truth.

Let the consequences do the teaching

Acknowledge truthfulness when a child or young person owns up to doing the wrong thing. Help them fix the dishonesty and discuss how to do better in the future. Avoid punishment as this will cause more lying in the future. Allowing the consequences to do the work helps keep your relationship intact and ensures that lessons are experienced, and responsibility is taken.

Extract a simple promise

Studies show that children are less likely to be dishonest once they have promised to tell the truth. If they tell you the truth, and then you punish them severely, they will be less likely to tell the truth in the future, promise or not.

Model honesty

Many adults are guilty of social 'white' lies. Such 'little white lies' that conveniently bend the truth to your advantage are commonplace. Children and young people take their cues from parents, so these little white lies show them it's okay to bend the truth in certain circumstances. You don't get away with anything when you are parent – your behaviour is always on show so stick to the truth, even when it's difficult, if you want your kids to do the same

In closing

Honesty takes time and maturity to learn, especially in the face of the clearly tactical advantages of bending the truth. As parents, nurture honesty in kids by modelling, discussing its merits and acknowledging that it's not always easy to be honest. And maybe, avoid keeping the chocolate cake on the kitchen table.



Michael Grose

Michael Grose, founder of Parenting Ideas, is one of Australia's leading parenting educators. He's an award-winning speaker and the author of 12 books for parents including *Spoonfed Generation*, and the bestselling *Why First Borns Rule the World and Last Borns Want to Change It*. Michael is a former teacher with 15 years experience, and has 30 years experience in parenting education. He also holds a Master of Educational Studies from Monash University specialising in parenting education.



SACRED HEART PRIMARY SCHOOL Important Dates

Term 4 Dates 2021

December

December						
Monday	Tuesda y	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
		1	2	3	4	5
		Swimming Lessons 9am – 2pm	Foundation 2022 Orientation Session 3 – 2.00pm – 3.15pm	Change over day 2022 (Year 1-6 Transition) 11.40am – 1.30pm Reports go home		Second Sunday of Advent
6 WEEK 10 B	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Foundation 2022 Orientation Session 4 - 2.00pm – 3.15pm Year 6 Graduation Mass 6pm and Dinner 7pm Swimming Lessons 9am – 2pm	CHANGE OF DATE: Awards Ceremony and Final Assembly 2.20pm			Third Sunday of Advent
13 WEEK 11 A	14	15	16	17	18	19
End of Term Celebrations		End of Year Mass 12pm Leaving Ceremony Students dismissed				Fourth Sunday of Advent
		at 1.30pm				

This week @ Sacred Heart







Year 5/6 Maths Class







Are you looking for a babysitter?

Hi, my name is Hannah O'Neill, and I am 14 years old and am about to complete Year 8 at Loyola College.

I am currently available for babysitting work in the area over the weekends and holiday period.

I have two younger brothers who attend Sacred Heart and have had experience looking after children of varying ages. I am also more than happy to assist with homework requirements and can be available at short notice.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any enquiries at all that you might have.

Hope to hear from you soon!

Hannah - 0480 214 258









check our Levels at https://www.elthamswim.com.au/swimming-lessons/assessment-levels