Dear Parents and families,

Last Sunday was the 7th Sunday of Ordinary Time in the Church’s calendar year. In the Gospel reading (Luke 6:27-38), Jesus calls us to show a Godlike compassion by forgiving our enemies. This is tough in an age when revenge is a lot more popular than forgiveness. When we are mistreated by others, we can respond with anger, hatred and verbal or physical violence. We have a choice. We can react as a human self – with revenge; or respond as a spiritual self – with compassion and love.

To do what Jesus asks, when persecuted we are to confront anger and hate and rather than defending and protecting ourselves, we are to move toward true forgiveness and love of that person. That is the radical compassion preached by Jesus. You might like to pray the following at home this week:

**Lord, open our eyes, that we may see you in our brothers and sisters.**

**Lord, open our ears, that we may hear the cries of the hungry, the cold, the frightened, the oppressed.**

**Lord, open our hearts, that we may love each other as you love us.**

**Renew in us your spirit. Lord, free us and make us one. Amen (From St Teresa of Calcutta)**

A reminder that our Beginning of School Year Mass is this Sunday, commencing at 9am. We look forward to seeing everyone there to welcome our new students, families and teachers. Don’t forget a plate of morning tea to share following Mass. Thank you to those families who have contacted me to apologise for not being able to attend.

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. Mass will be celebrated in our church at 2pm. All are welcome to attend. For Catholics, Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence from meat, sweets and treats.

A number of our students will be swimming in Horsham next Wednesday. We wish Macey, Marni, Taya, Lana, Clay, Lena, Isabella and Leith all the best!

**Wishing you all a wonderful week! Cynthia**
**Water Fun Day**
A big thanks again to everyone who came along on Friday to help with our Water Fun Day! It was a great day full of lots of fun times. Congratulations to all students for their wonderful behaviour and participation. Thanks to the cheer squad of grandparents, aunties, uncles and family friends. I’m sure everyone enjoyed the sausage sizzle lunch; $191.75 was raised for Project Compassion; thank you! This was the end of our swimming program; sport is on Fridays from this week onwards.

Our swimming doesn’t happen at the click of a finger. Sincere thanks to Mrs Horman for her many hours of work spent organising and running the swimming program and the Water Fun Day. Thanks too to all staff for their efforts during the program. Thanks also to Patti Thomas who gave up her time each week to help us also. Remember we are looking for a parent or 2 to train as lifeguard later in the year when the course is offered to help us out next year as we have experienced difficulties with finding a life guard for the last 2 years. Please consider this to help us out next year.

**Parent Meeting**
Don’t forget our first Parent Meeting is being held tomorrow at 2pm. Agenda items include a wrap up of New Year’s Eve and the Clearing Sale catering, proposed wedding catering and a special lunch for the Feast of St Joseph on March 19th. We hope many of you are able to make it! After school parents are invited into the classrooms to meet your child’s class teacher if you haven’t already done so this year. This will also be an opportunity for you to ask or clarify any questions you may have about homework expectations or school routines.

**Shrove Tuesday**
Next Tuesday is Shrove Tuesday, sometimes called Pancake Tuesday. The Junior Red Cross & Mission Group will be selling pancakes at recess time on Tuesday. A gold coin donation will get students scrummy pancakes for recess! If any parents are able to help us cook pancakes before recess could you please let us know. All money raised will go towards Project Compassion.

**Clean Up Australia Day**
A reminder that we are taking part in Clean Up Australia Day this Friday. Students will leave school straight after assembly to head to Lake Lascelles, returning by recess. **Could students please bring an old pair of runners or boots and a spare pair of socks to school as some will be cleaning up along the water’s edge.**

As a Catholic school community we are called to care for our environment and ensure it’s sustainability for future generations. Participating in Clean Up Australia Day is one small way we can do this.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the weather forecast for Friday students will now be transported in cars instead of walking.

**Open Championship winner**
Congratulations Lana!

Chairperson Patto with Lana, winner of the Open Championship
No School for Foundation students on Wednesdays
A reminder to parents of Foundation students that they do not attend school on Wednesdays until after the long weekend.

Found
One size 4 & one size 6 zip jacket
Please call in to the office if your child is missing one

To Give Away
2 x Viewsonic computer screens
2 x keyboards & mice

Drink Bottles
A reminder to ensure your child brings a drink bottle to school each day.
The school does have a number of school drink bottles for sale for $10. Please see Julie if you wish to purchase one.

Nude Food Day
EVERY Thursday

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reminders</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 28th February</td>
<td>Parent Meeting 2pm, Teacher &amp; Parents catch up session 3.15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 3rd March</td>
<td>Beginning of School Year Mass 9am, plate to share for morning tea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 1st March</td>
<td>Clean Up Australia Day 9am, bring old runners/boots &amp; spare socks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5th March</td>
<td>Shrove Tuesday, pancakes at recess, gold coin donation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN OUR CLASSROOMS?

Room 1

Week 5 - where has the time gone? Now that swimming is over, we are getting into full swing in the classroom. Our literacy block is working well with the students enjoying their reading rotations. I would like to thank our volunteers who have taken time to help out in this block, Marilyn, Mel and Jacki thank you!

Recounts are now over and we are focusing on descriptive writing. I hope you enjoy hearing about all the interesting facts that are to come. You can support this learning at home by asking your child to describe objects to you, talking about size, colour and special features e.g. brown, curly hair.

Our Integrated Studies program has begun and this term’s topic is ‘Let’s get Physical’ (Wellbeing), it will focus on things such as healthy lifestyle, nutrition and community health. Now that swimming is over our Art, Respectful Relationships/Bounce Back and Sport programs are all beginning this week also.

Homework books for grade 1 and 2’s are now out; sorry for the delay there. We ask that the students still read and practice spelling words daily, other homework activities can be done at anytime as long as they are completed and handed in Friday morning.

We are happy to invite you into the open classroom we are having on afternoon night. This is just a chance to touch base, look around and ask any questions that you may have about class time or homework, including jolly phonics, homework books and reading diaries.

Drink bottles will be sent home every night to be washed and freshly filled for the next day, please make sure your child/ren are bringing them each day.

Enjoy the week,

Miss Rowles

Room 2

It’s been great to see all the students do well and having fun at the swimming fun day last Friday.

We have ‘meet the teacher’ in Room 2 after school on Thursday after school. It would be great to meet a lot of you as parents. I am more than happy to answer any questions you may have.

On Sunday we also the school mass, in which students are taking part in.

Please when possible remind your child to bring their drink bottle and diary to school each day. Homework has begun this week with some spelling, math and reading. Please remember reading is the most important. There is also bonus homework for those students wanting a challenge.

If you have any questions don’t hesitate to ask. You can contact me through class dojo or at pflower@sjhopetoun.catholic.edu.au

Ms Flower

Music

Music with Mrs Hofmaier will start on Friday March 8th.

A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING
Congratulations to the following students who received awards at assembly last Friday:

**Room 1:**
- **Denzel:** for improved behaviour
- **Louie:** for excellent work on your counting sausage dog

**Room 2:**
- **John:** for trying his best and working hard in writing
- **Lena:** for always helping

**Playground raffle winners:**
- **Axel:** for cleaning the cubby
- **Isabella H:** for making sure people play by the dodgeball rules

---

**Star of the Week**

**Jenna**

- **My Family:** Dad—Jinse, mum—Jincy & Jaida
- **My Pets:** If I could have a pet it would be a pink, red & blue kitten
- **My Favourite Food:** Chocolate Milkshake
- **Hobbies:** Taking pictures, learning words & numbers & helping my mum
- **My Friends:** Emily & Cheyanne
- **When I grow up I want to be:** a worker at the hospital

---

*A COMMUNITY OF FAITH AND LEARNING*
**Vision Statement**
St. Joseph’s School is an inclusive community of faith and learning with Christ at its centre. St Joseph’s School will educate its students to be of service to society in the Catholic tradition of love, faith and hope.

**Mission Statement**
As a Christ centred school we celebrate our Catholic beliefs, values, practices and traditions.
As an educational institution we:
- Will support the development of the whole person.
- Will provide a comprehensive curriculum, which challenges all students in their pursuit of success.
- Will cater for the varied learning styles of our students.
- Will be a child safe school by providing a physical and online environment that is happy, safe and welcoming.
- Will respect the dignity of the individual and value the participation and contribution of all.
- Will work in partnership with parents, the parish and the wider community.
- Will encourage our students to make a difference in the local, national and global communities in which they live.

---

**HOUSEKEEPING!!**

**Student Absence from School**
A reminder that it is a legal requirement for parents to explain absences from school. We do not need to know ‘nitty gritty’ details, simply sickness, doctor’s appointment or family reasons will suffice. **Please remember to email or phone the school prior to 10am on the day of absence otherwise you will be contacted, or if a scheduled absence in advance.** Thank you.

**Sunscreen**
Sunscreen is provided by the school for our students, however we do encourage the children to bring their own sunscreen to school to assist with sun protection. Students are regularly encouraged by teachers to apply sunscreen throughout the day.

**Hats**
School hats MUST be worn at all times when students are outdoors, except for extremely windy days where hats blow over the fence. School Hats are now $15.00.

**Signing out**
Please remember to sign out your child at the office if you need to take them from school during the day. This is not only a legal requirement but also an important part of our emergency management plan.

**P & F docket**
A reminder that any purchases for P & F from IGA must be put on the P & F account (not school account). Dockets then need to be sent to school please.

**Pie warmer containers**
A reminder that students can bring lunch to school wrapped in foil or in a foil container to be heated in the pie warmer.

Pie warmer containers are available from the office for $10.00 for 50 containers.

---

*Grounds Roster March: S Cook & B Schack*
Wills & Powers of Attorney Information Session

The Murray Mallee Community Legal Service is delivering a general information session to the local community covering:

- Wills
- Powers of Attorney
- Medical Treatment Decision Makers
- Advance Care Directives

The session will cover brief information about wills with the focus being on Powers of Attorney and changes to legislation in March 2018 regarding Medical Treatment Decision Makers and Advance Care Directives.

Please join us to learn more about planning for your future

Wednesday 27th February
5pm

Hopetoun & District Neighbourhood House

Please RSVP to Cindy by Monday 25th February

Ph: 5083 3408 or email in-

fo@hopehouse.org.au