Dear Parents & Members of Our School Community

This Sunday is an extremely important day in the Churches calendar - Palm Sunday. This marks the commencement of Holy Week leading up to the pinnacle Feast of Easter. During this week the Church liturgically commemorates the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper on Holy Thursday: “Then He took some bread, and when He had given thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying ‘This is my body which will be given for you: do this as a memorial of me’. He did the same with the cup after supper and said ‘this cup is the new covenant in my blood which will be poured out for you.’” Luke 22: 19-20

It was at the Last Supper that Jesus also instituted the priesthood. Easter is the centre of Christianity and of the Church’s liturgical year. It celebrates not only the Crucifixion of Jesus, but also His Resurrection. It is in His Resurrection that death is conquered. Without this belief in the reality of the Resurrection, with its hope and promise of eternal salvation for humankind, Christianity loses its relevance and purpose in our lives.

Stations of the Cross: Next Thursday, 24 March we will be preparing ourselves in readiness for Easter with a Stations of the Cross Service at 9.00am on the school oval. At this service we will be presenting to the Parish community funds raised by the children and families of St. Thomas’ in the Annual Project Compassion Appeal.

The Project Compassion boxes received by each family after the Ash Wednesday Mass will need to be returned to school next Wednesday 23 March. Thank you for your support with this Christian Service fundraising initiative.

Harmony Day: Harmony Day will also be celebrated next Thursday, 24 March. Many thanks to Mrs. Kell, Mrs. Valentine, Mrs Dragon and Mrs. Sullivan for their organisation, enthusiasm and commitment to celebrating the diversity of people within this beautiful land.

Parish/School Mass: Our second Parish/School Mass of the year will take place this Saturday evening at 5.30pm. The Year Three class and Mr O’Mara are organising the mass and sausage sizzle at the conclusion. The Year Three’s buddy class, the Kindy students will be co-hosting this liturgy. Even though it is the Year Three class organising this event, it would be wonderful to see the Church full with St Thomas’ families. The gate leading onto the bottom oval will be open from 5pm, allowing families to park on that oval during the service.

Senior Swimming Carnival: Best of luck to all four Factions at next Tuesday’s Swimming Carnival. Once again thanks to Miss Kerse for her preparation of the students and for her organisation of this years carnival.

P&F Bush Dance: The second P&F function of the year is just around the corner with the Bush Dance set for Friday 1 April. It would be wonderful to see all our families in attendance for this fun family event.

Faction Cup: As we rapidly draw to the end of the term we can see that Sheridan is leading the way with 306 points, followed closely in second place by Gittens on 234 points, third is Curtis on 218 and just behind on 198 points is Forrest.

Mass times Easter St Thomas’

Holy Thursday Mass:
24th March - 7pm
Good Friday
25th March – Stations 10am, Passion- 3pm
Easter Vigil Mass—Saturday:
26th March – 6.30pm
Easter Sunday Masses:
7.30am & 9.30am ( no mass at 6.30pm)

EASTER BREAK
Please note that the following days are holidays for all staff and students:

- Good Friday – 25 March
- Easter Monday – 28 March
- Easter Tuesday – 29 March

School resumes on Wednesday 30 March for staff and students.

We wish you and your family a very happy and holy Easter. Whist enjoying the Hot Cross Buns and Easter Eggs, please remember the religious meaning behind Easter, Jesus’ dying on the cross for us and his rising to new life.

With regards and best wishes

Justin Tockey
Principal

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Help me Lord

O help me, Lord, this day to be
Thy own dear child and follow Thee;
And lead me, Saviour, by Thy hand
Until I reach the heavenly land.

Amen.

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Quote of the Week

Better to light a candle than curse the darkness.”

Chinese Proverb
Palm Sunday is the final Sunday of Lent, the beginning of Holy Week, and commemorates the triumphant arrival of Christ in Jerusalem, days before he was crucified. Palm Sunday is known as such because the faithful will often receive palm fronds which they use to participate in the reenactment of Christ’s arrival in Jerusalem. In the Gospels, Jesus entered Jerusalem riding a young donkey, and to the lavish praise of the townspeople who threw clothes, or possibly palms or small branches, in front of him as a sign of homage. This was a customary practice for people of great respect. Palm branches are widely recognised symbol of peace and victory, hence their preferred use on Palm Sunday. The use of a donkey instead of a horse is highly symbolic, it represents the humble arrival of someone in peace, as opposed to arriving on a steed in war. A week later, Christ would rise from the dead on the first Easter.

Take the Palm Sunday Trivia Quiz now!

During Palm Sunday Mass, palms are distributed to parishioners who carry them in a ritual procession into church. The palms are blessed and many people will fashion them into small crosses or other items of personal devotion. These may be returned to the church, or kept for the year. Because the palms are blessed, they may not be discarded as trash. Instead, they are appropriately gathered at the church and incinerated to create the ashes that will be used in the follow year’s Ash Wednesday observance. The colours of the Mass on Palm Sunday are red and white, symbolizing the redemption in blood that Christ paid for the world.

REFLECTION

Jesus was good at soul talk. He was an exceptional listener to his own soul and an extremely good communicator of its truths. The real Jesus was always trying to take his personality out of his actions. He was always pointing past himself and through himself to God. Jesus didn’t make his ministry about himself – we did. We think we are following his example when we create charismatic leaders, when we let our personalities get in the way of our spiritual practice. I am a ‘Christian’, we say. This is how ‘Christians’ should behave. Jesus never said, metaphorically speaking, “I am a Christian’. He probably never said, ‘I am a Jew’. He worked hard at emptying himself so that there would be more room for God to grow and expand inside him.

Let’s follow that example this Easter. Let’s be empty people. Let’s create a bigger and bigger space within ourselves for God to fill.
We encourage you to attend the Easter Services. Wishing you a blessed and joyful Easter.

God Bless
NICKY SULLIVAN
The Australian Government is to conduct the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) online from 2018. This presents a significant challenge for our little school, however we see many positives in conducting NAPLAN online.

As the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority have reported, this will enable “tailored testing” and will provide more timely marking, feedback and results. A greater range of things can be tested once no longer restricted by paper and pencil tests, including testing students’ ability to read, understand and apply digital texts.

However, the Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority acknowledge that NAPLAN online will present challenges for schools’ digital capabilities. We at St Thomas’ have already started implement what is needed to manage this massive task. Further information regarding the writing component will be disseminated to our school community in due course.

Lila Gibbs
Year of Mercy Update:
Below is some information relating to the Year of Mercy logo

The Year of Mercy logo

**The almond shape**
An important figure in ancient iconography, it represents the union of two circles, that is the two natures of Christ: divine and human.

**The motto**
The motto of the Year of Mercy is taken from the Gospel of Luke: “Be merciful like the Father”

**The colors**
Red: blood, life and divinity
White: the light of Christ
Blue: represents man
Golden: Adam (and each one of us) is in a process of becoming like God through Jesus Christ.

**The gaze**
Jesus and the man share one eye. This means that God communicates himself in such a way that man is able to see as He sees.

**The concentric ovals**
They suggest the movement of Christ who carries humanity out of the night of sin and death.

**The Good Shepherd**
Jesus is the Good Shepherd who carries Adam (and all of us) on His shoulders.

“**GOD’S MERCY IS LIKE THAT: A GREAT LIGHT OF LOVE AND TENDERNESS**" (POPE FRANCIS)

Canteen at the Swimming Carnival

Canteen lunches will be available to children from years 3 to 6 at the Claremont Pool on Carnival Day
**Tuesday 22nd March**

Go to Our Online Canteen, select the date of the carnival and order as usual.
Orders can be placed up to 8am on the morning of the carnival.
Dear Parents

St Thomas’ Primary School is once again offering Years 2-6 the opportunity to enter into the nationwide competitions run by the University of New South Wales and the Australian Mathematics Trust. (ICAS)

Competition season runs between 17 May through to 16 August. You are invited to choose all or any of the competitions for your child to sit. Please return the permission slip and costs associated with the competition back to school no later than Thursday 31 March 2016.

Digital Technologies (Years 3-6)  Tuesday 17 May  $ 8.80
Science (Years 2-6)  Tuesday 31 May  $ 8.80
Writing (Years 3-6)  Monday 13 June  $18.70
Spelling (Years 2-6)  Wednesday 15 June  $12.10
English (Years 2-6)  Tuesday 2 August  $ 8.80
Mathematics (Years 2-6)  Tuesday 16 August  $ 8.80

Parents are also encouraged to visit the University of New South Wales website www.eaa.unsw.edu.au to gather more background information on these competitions and to access practice items to help your child prepare for the competition.

I look forward to supporting your child in these endeavours.

Yours sincerely
Lisa Keatch
E-Challenge and Science Teacher
Keatch.lisa@cathednet.wa.edu.au

I give permission for my child _________________________________________________
Class ___________________ (As you would like written on the certificate)
to participate in the above competitions selected.

_______________________________________                   __________________
Signature                                                                                  Date
MAKE YOUR OWN STORYBOOK COMPETITION 2016
(Children’s Book Council of Australia - WA Branch Inc.)

Open to students from PrePrimary to Year 6.

PRIZES awarded in various age categories.

Make your own story book, or make a book with a friend! (A maximum of two students can create a book together)

You can enter a picture book (words and pictures) OR a story book (predominantly text).

Entry forms available from the St Thomas’ school library or contact Year 5 parent Rebecca Newman rebecca.m.newman@gmail.com.

Get your completed books back to the school library by 3pm Wednesday 8 June 2016.

GOOD LUCK!
PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL 2016

The Performing Arts festival for Catholic Schools and Colleges provides an opportunity for students to perform in a public forum, developing the confidence, self-esteem and social skills of those who wish to participate. Participants are provided with positive, helpful guidance in the form of a written adjudication and an opportunity to share their gifts and talents with a wider audience.

The festival runs for the month of August. I have a calendar of events if you would like to check specific dates.

Students/parents from years 4/5/6 who play a musical instrument and are interested in performing this year, please complete the entry form and return it to school as soon as possible. **A copy of the sheet music must be attached to the entry form.**

A cost of $16.00 for each solo entry will be added to school fees.

Applications close May 6 Term 2, Week 2.

Musical Regards

Cathy Cotton
cotton.cathy@cathednet.wa.edu.au

St Thomas’ School entry form

Student ______________________________________________ YR________

Instrument ______________________________________________________

Music tutor ______________________________________________________

Title of piece _____________________________________________________

Length of piece ___________ minutes

**PLEASE ATTACH A COPY OF THE SHEET MUSIC TO THIS APPLICATION**
Woolworths Earn and Learn program rewards have arrived.
Thank you to those many parents who supported this program.
Here are the Phys-ed, Science and Math's resources that were delivered this week.

IONA Presentation College
Will be holding Open Mornings between Thursday 31 March and Tuesday 30 August
If you are planning to send your daughter to IONA from Year 7 please take a flyer available from the front office.

ANZ NetSetGO Program
For Year 1 and 2 only

ANZ NetSetGO is the only introductory program for netball. It has been developed to provide children with the best possible introduction to the sport of netball. The program incorporates skill activities, minor games and modified matches in a fun and safe environment.

NETSETGO PROVIDES:
- Social interactive learning.
- Development of motor skills and confidence through fun and games.
- Children with better basic netball skills when they enter netball the following year.

All sessions will be held in all weather conditions.

FRIDAY
6th May to 24 June 2016
4-5pm
7 weeks
(8 session 3rd June-long weekend)

SATURDAY
7th May to 25 June 2016
4-5pm
7 weeks
(8 session 3rd June-long weekend)

Cost: $110 (including participant pack, pack fee will be deducted at check out for participants who have already received one in 2016)

Venue: Outdoor Courts, Matthews Netball Centre.

Registrations open: 10th March
Registrations close: 5th May or when fully booked.

Online Registration via this link: MyNetball Registration

Additional Information
- Entry and parking is via the Saloada Road or Saloada Street entry point, Xirohlo.
- No Refunds after 3rd May. All refunds prior 3rd May will incur admin fee of $15
- Please check your T-shirt size carefully as there are no exchanges.
- An email will be sent from the office on 5 May with further information about location etc.

Perth Netball Association | PO Box 25 Wembley 6914 | 1100 Saloada Road Wembley | Ph: 9387 7811

prasadirection@perthenetball.com.au | www.perthenetball.com.au