



OUR HOLY REDEEMER

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Frank Dame

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Newsletter No 34
5th November 2020

"Always Was, Always Will Be."

NAIDOC 2020 Theme

DATES TO REMEMBER

THURSDAY, 5 TH	7.00PM	PREP 2021 TRANSITION EVENING FOR PARENTS
TUESDAY, 10 TH	7.00PM	ABOUT REAL LIFE – YRS3-6 PARENTS/STUDENT EVENING
WEDNESDAY, 11 TH		REMEMBRANCE DAY
THURSDAY, 12 TH		PREP 2021 TRANSITION SESSIONS

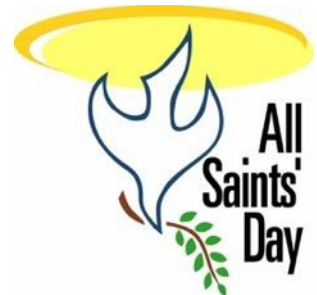
FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,

As Catholics we were called to celebrate the feasts of All Saints Day on **Sunday 1 November** and the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed the following day on All Souls Day.

These are significant feasts in the life of the Church. They are a reminder that the Church is a community – a communion – of all the faithful, both in this world and beyond. We are connected in Christ to all those who have gone before us, as we are connected to the faithful here on earth.

These feasts invite us to pause, remember and pray for all those who have gone before us (particularly one's relatives and friends) and all those who have led lives of holiness. People may often choose to visit the sites of deceased relatives and friends during this time. These feasts mark the beginning of a month of prayer for those who have died. To pray for the dead, and the living, is a spiritual work of mercy. These feasts are a timely reminder to embrace this work of mercy and the important feasts of November in the midst of competing events.



Prep Transition Program

- We will be conducting our second transition webinar for the parents of our prep 2021 children this evening. Thank you to Naomi Hart, Tina Hautot, Michelle Hollow and Nick Byrne for joining with me to be an important part of this evening. During the night we intend to provide an opportunity for the parents to:
 - Learn more about the school
 - Receive further advice on how they can comfortably prepare for the start of school
 - Meet some other parents (via breakout rooms)
 - Listen to our school captains who will briefly talk about their experience of schooling at OHR
 - Learn about the approach we will be taking to welcome their child onsite during November.
- Our first Prep 2021 Transition Morning will be held the next week on Thursday 12 November. However, in keeping with current guidelines, the transition visits can only comprise small groups of up to 10 children, parents and teachers. Therefore, we will be holding three separate sessions throughout the day with approximately 8 – 9 students in each. Parents will not be

permitted on-site. The sessions will last for one hour with a 30-minute break between each allowing for a clean down of surfaces and setting up of new activities.

Furniture in Hall

The old furniture that was formerly housed in the Prep – Year 4 classrooms, was relocated to the Hall during the most recent school holidays when the new furniture arrived.

Pacific Assist will bring a shipping container onsite for the collection of all the classroom furniture, currently housed in the hall, on Wednesday 25 November. All the furniture will be stacked into the container on Thursday 26 November, with the container being collected on the following day.

Pacific Assist will deliver the furniture to island nations in the South Pacific region that are in desperate need of classroom furniture.

Pacific Assist is an Australian and New Zealand based not-for-profit charity serving the nations of the South Pacific. Their mission is “to inspire individuals, families, and communities to be emotionally, physically, economically and educationally self-reliant”.

2021 Class Structures

Once again, in 2021, Our Holy Redeemer will be offering eight classes. We are pleased to be able to continue offering two Foundation (Prep) classes, as has become the custom in recent years. Despite the impact COVID-19 has had on the enrolment numbers of many schools, our Prep numbers are tracking along the same lines as to what they have during non-COVID years. The following class structures will prove to be of the greatest benefit to our children, parents, teachers and learning support staff in 2021:

Foundation (Prep) x 2

Year 1/2 x 2*

Year 3/4 x 2

Year 5/6 x 2

- In addition to the class teacher, the Year 1/2 classes will each have their own Learning Support Officer working within the classroom five days per week, i.e. two adults will be in each classroom at all times.

2021 Fees and Levies

At the most recent meeting of the Parish School Education Board (PSEB), the school’s Business Manager – Hannah Ngu – discussed our financial situation. As part of the presentation Hannah discussed: YTD Financial Performance; the school’s current position in relation to fee collection; the move to a new system of governance; and proposed fees and levies for the 2021 school year. In setting the fees for 2021, the PSEB has maintained its emphasis on the provision of affordable Catholic Education for all families, while ensuring the school is able to fund its education programs, which demand continued innovation and development of the learning opportunities and wellbeing outcomes for all students.

At Our Holy Redeemer we are mindful of keeping our fees as low as responsibly possible and, to this end and in light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on many in the school community, our business manager has supported the Board’s decision **to not increase the fees** at all in 2021. A minimum levy increase of **2.5%** is all that will be applied. The PSEB endorsed the recommended levy increase at its meeting held on 20 October 2020. With this in mind, any family who is experiencing financial hardship is invited to contact either of us in confidence to discuss their situation.

End of Year Celebrations

End of year school-based celebrations will be curtailed this year in line with conditions outlined in the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria’s (CECV’s) School Operations Guide. For example, “Year 6 and Year 12 graduations are permitted face-to-face in Victorian schools. Students from the graduating year level and staff can attend in person. Parents/carers and other family members or friends cannot attend in person but could engage via an online broadcasting of the event.

All schools are required to follow public health directions and apply the operational health and safety advice to schools during the graduation ceremony. This includes staff and secondary students over the age of 12 years wearing face masks, physical distancing and practicing hand hygiene.

Face masks can be removed briefly for photos or giving a speech.” (p. 25)

Book Day Images

Early last week, our Year 6 students launched their Picture Story books. Throughout the week the students visited classes every afternoon in order to share their stories. Congratulations to all our Year 6's who managed to produce a product of which they can all be extremely proud.



Wishing everyone a great weekend,
Frank

RE News

Sunday Gospel

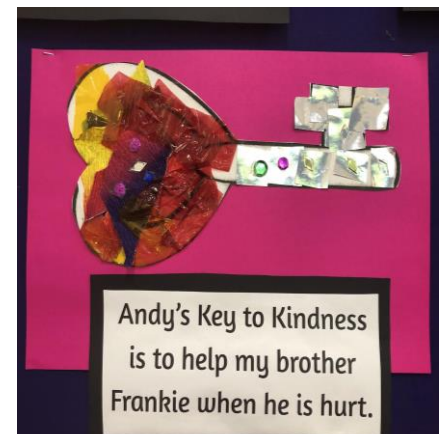
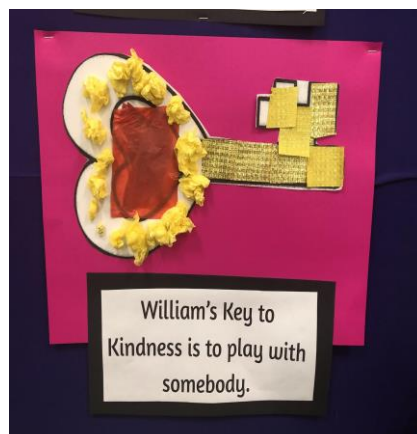
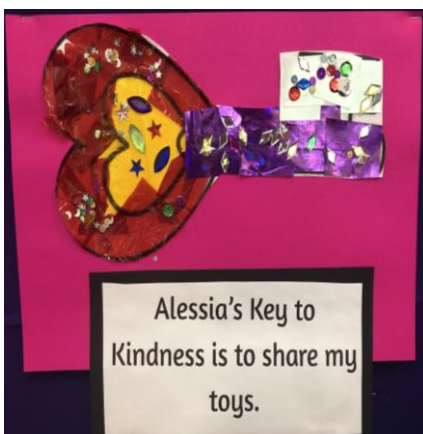
The liturgy of the Catholic Church provides a framework for reflection which is used by Catholics throughout the world. Each week in the newsletter, you will find the Sunday Gospel as well as some discussion questions to have with your child/ren.

Nick Byrne, Education in Faith Leader

RE Learning in Prep HT

This term our Value of the Gospel is KINDNESS. In Prep we are looking at ways we can be kind to others and make a positive difference in someone's life. We read and investigated the story of the Good Samaritan and discussed what personal strengths it takes to be like the Good Samaritan.

In Art we designed our very own Key to Kindness to unlock a world where we can support and love one another.



A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

Jesus told this parable to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven will be like this: Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five of them were sensible: the foolish ones did take their lamps, but they brought no oil, whereas the sensible ones took flasks of oil as well as their lamps. The bridegroom was late, and they all grew drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a cry, "The bridegroom is here! Go out and meet him." At this, all those bridesmaids woke up and trimmed their lamps, and the foolish ones said to the sensible ones, "Give us some of your oil: our lamps are going out." But they replied, "There may not be enough for us and for you; you had better go to those who sell it and buy some for yourselves." They had gone off to buy it when the bridegroom arrived. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding hall and the door was closed. The other bridesmaids arrived later. "Lord, Lord," they said, "open the door for us." But he replied, "I tell you solemnly, I do not know you." So stay awake, because you do not know either the day or the hour.'

The Gospel of the Lord

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Who has ever had to wait for someone in the dark?
2. What was it like?
3. How could you make waiting in the dark easier?
4. How were some foolish?
5. How were the others wise?
6. Jesus says that we are to be ready and alert and watch for him. How can we be alert and ready to meet Jesus among us?

