

Newsletter No 35 4th November 2021

"Let us always meet each other with a smile, for the smile is the beginning of love."

Mother Teresa

DATES TO REMEMBER

FRIDAY, 5TH 2021 SWIMMING PROGRAM

CONTINUES

ICAS DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES MONDAY, 8TH

COMPETITION

THURSDAY, 11TH REMEMBRANCE DAY

7.00PM 2022 PREP PARENT

Transition Evening #2

FRIDAY, 12TH ICAS ENGLISH COMPETITION

MONDAY, 15TH ICAS MATHS COMPETITION

2022 PREP TRANSITION TUESDAY, 16TH

MORNING

2021 SWIMMING PROGRAM THURSDAY, 18th

CONTINUES

FRIDAY, 19TH 2021 SWIMMING PROGRAM

CONTINUES

WEDNESDAY, 27TH 7.30PM PFA MEETING

DECEMBER

2021 SWIMMING PROGRAM Thursday, 9th

YEAR 6 GRADUATION THURSDAY, 9TH

> MASS AT OHR 6.00PM

6.45_{PM} PRE-DINNER DRINKS

FOLLOWED BY DINNER

WEDNESDAY, $15^{ ext{TH}}$ 3.15PM 2021 SCHOOL YEAR

CONCLUDES

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Parishioners,

I hope that over the long weekend you enjoyed the opportunity to either get away with your families or have some day trips, and enjoy the freedom of catching up with extended family and friends. There is no doubt that this gradual return to normal has been good for the soul. As a staff, and no doubt for parents, it's also been wonderful for our all students to return to full-time onsite learning.

All Saints Day and All Souls Day

As Catholics, we begin November by remembering those who have died. We call the first two days of November All Saints Day and All Souls Day. November 1, All Saints Day, was called All Hallows' Day in England because hallow is another word for holy. The night before was called All Hallows' Eve, which was eventually shortened to Halloween. The tradition of dressing in scary costumes and putting up pictures of tombstones and ghosts are ways to make death seem less frightening. But the Catholic Church offers us an alternative way of thinking about those who have died. On All Saints Day and All Souls Day we remember that we are members of the People of God. United with God, we are also united with all those who have come before us in the Communion of Saints.

One of the great gifts of our Catholic tradition is the remembrance of, and prayer with, the saints. The Church offers us an official canon, or list, of saints. On All Saints Day we recall and pray with these saints. It is important to continue to tell these stories of saints and saintly people to our children so that they have ample models of people of faith for their own lives. Our Year 6 Confirmation candidates have studied various saints, and people that reflect spirit-filled lives, in preparation for this sacrament.

The feast of All Souls, which was celebrated on Tuesday, is one of the most loving celebrations in



the Church's liturgy. It is a day where we especially remember all those who have passed from this life into the next. On this day we stop to remember all who have died, especially our relatives and friends. We pray for those who shared their lives with us, cared for us and made sacrifices for us. We pray for those who prayed for us while they were on this earth. And we pray for the most forgotten souls.

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation: Repeated

With the easing of restrictions across Metropolitan Melbourne, the parish is now in the position to proceed with both the Sacraments of First Eucharist and Confirmation.

Parents of students in Years 4 and 6 would have received correspondence from Fr Brendan over the weekend, containing important details surrounding the celebration of both sacraments.

To recap, the dates and times on which the sacraments will be celebrated are as follows:

- First Eucharist (Year 4): Thursday 25 November at 6.00pm
- Confirmation (Year 6): Sunday 28 November at 1.00pm

Mrs Hart and Mrs Harrison

At the end of this year, our community will farewell Mrs Hart and Mrs Harrison, who have both taken up positions at St Joseph's Primary School, Hawthorn.

Mrs Harrison joined the community of OHR at the beginning of 2016, at exactly the same time I commenced here as Principal. Mrs Hart joined our school one year later, initially in a part-time capacity. She progressed to become a full-time classroom teacher in 2018.

Both teachers have displayed a genuine passion for teaching, bringing joy to their classrooms of learners. I know that both have valued the professional relationships they have formed with the parents of their students.

I will have more to say on both these fine teachers towards the end of the year. In the meantime, we will make the most of their time here during this final term.

2022 Class Structures

In 2022 Our Holy Redeemer will be offering seven classes. While our student population will remain the same as in 2021, there will be a greater balance in class numbers across the school.

During recent months, I have been meeting with staff to plan for the 2022 school year. As always, careful consideration is given to the most suitable teaching combinations that will benefit the children's learning and development.

With 19 students enrolled in Foundation (Prep), we will be offering one class of students who will be taught by Mrs Michelle Hollow. As Michelle is taking on full-time responsibility for the teaching and learning of the Prep students, she will no longer be the Performing Arts teacher. Our new Performing Arts teacher, Miss Kate O'Keeffe, has worked extensively in the Performing Arts throughout her career and is currently teaching at Melbourne Girls' Grammar.

Other changes to our staffing include the re-deployment of Mrs Esther Jackson to the Year 5/6 team, where she will be joined by Ms Danielle Busuttil. Mrs Hautot will move from Prep to the position of Year 1/2 teacher.

The following class structures will prove to be of greatest benefit to our children, parents, teachers and learning support officers in 2022:

Foundation (Prep) Year 1/2 x 2 Year 3/4 x 2 Year 5/6 x 2

A full list of OHR staffing for 2022 will be provided in the coming weeks.

Formation of Classes

The teaching staff are commencing the process of developing class placements for the 2022 school year. The construction of class lists is a process that requires teaching staff give consideration to a great variety of factors in an effort to create a social, emotional, behavioural and academic balance within any given class, as detailed in the *Rationale* of our Formation of Classes Policy:

"At OHR we believe that learning is influenced by a diverse range of factors. The professional knowledge, judgement and discretion of all teachers is critical to the placement of students. The class allocation process should follow protocols which address the balance of social, emotional and academic needs of each child."

Kindergarten Visits

In the coming weeks Mrs Hollow and I will commence kindergarten visits. This is a further step to support the transition of children from their pre-school environment to Our Holy Redeemer. During these visits we take the opportunity to meet with each child's teacher, while engaging with the children in their pre-school learning environment.

2022 Fees and Levies

I acknowledge that these times are certainly challenging. Over the last eighteen months, many people and children in our community have been affected by the COVID-19 Pandemic; socially, emotionally and financially.

The current COVID-19 Pandemic unfortunately continues to impact our community, and is likely to continue being a factor for some time to come.

For this reason, we have decided to freeze our fees for 2022, keeping them at the same level as 2021 to provide our families with some financial relief given the current climate. Our Holy Redeemer is committed to continuing to provide an outstanding experience for its students, as a school of choice in nurturing our future leaders in the community. Families may be assured this decision will in no way impact the education provided as the school continues to find ways to be innovative in delivering its curriculum.

Following on from consultation with and advice from our Business Manager, Alex Pettolino, and the School Advisory Council, we have finalised our Fee Structure for 2022.

All families will receive a letter shortly containing OHR's 2022 Fee Structure.

Wishing everyone a great weekend, Frank

RE NEWS

Sunday Gospel

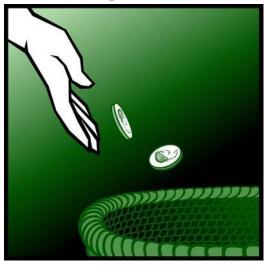
The liturgy of the Catholic Church provides a framework for reflection which is used by Catholics throughout the world. Each week in the Newsletter, you will find the Sunday Gospel as well as some questions for discussion with your child/ren.

Nick Byrne, RE Leader

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

In his teaching Jesus said, 'Beware of the scribes who like to walk about in long robes, to be greeted obsequiously in the market squares, to take the front seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at banquets; these are the men who swallow the property of widows, while making a show of lengthy prayers. The more severe will be the sentence they receive.'

He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the treasury, and many of the rich put in a great deal. A poor widow came and put in two small coins, the equivalent of a penny. Then he called to his disciples and said to them, 'I tell you solemnly, this poor widow has put



more in than all who have contributed to the treasury; for they have all put in money they had over, but she from the little she had has put in everything she possessed, all she had to live on.'

The Gospel of the Lord

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. How much did the wealthy give and how much did the widow give in the Gospel story today?
- 2. Why did Jesus say that the widow gave more?
- 3. Jesus asks us not to make a show of doing good for others. How can we do good things without making a fuss?
- 4. What things are more difficult to do for others?
- 5. How can we be like the widow who gave her last two coins?

ADMIN NEWS

2021 SCHOOL FEES

Currently, there are still fifteen families whose balance is in excess of \$4,000 and/or who have yet to make a payment for this year's school fees. Please call me for more information, if required.

2021 SWIMMING PROGRAM

Thank you everyone for your cooperation with the Permission and Assessment paperwork – mammoth effort by all concerned – getting it all together this week was fantastic. Shelly, who runs the PLC Aquatic Centre, and her team have been amazing!

COMMUNITY NEWS



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