This Sunday we begin the Season of Advent. During Advent we prepare for Christmas. The word Advent derives from the Latin word meaning coming. The Lord is coming. We may reflect that every year at this time we celebrate his coming. During Advent we recall the history of God’s people and reflect on how the prophecies and promises of the Old Testament were fulfilled. This gives us a background for the present. Today we can reflect on the past track record of God and so begin to understand what it means to us now for the sake of what is to come, in our own future and that of our world. (www.catholic.org)

Dear God,

During Advent, the four weeks before Christmas,
we think about all the people in the Bible,
who wait for hundreds of years
for Jesus to come on earth.

We think about Mary and Joseph, going to Bethlehem,
to register in their home town,
and then waiting for Jesus to be born.

Help us, God, in this time of Advent,
bless our eyes and ears,
that we may see and hear Jesus.

Amen.

From Prayers I Pray, An Australian Prayer Book for primary school age Children St Pauls Publications, 2004

Our Lady Help of Christians Parish Mass Times
Saturday 6pm & Sunday 8.30am, 6pm
Dear Parents and Carers,

Our community was rocked this week by the news that the Hutchings family had been involved in a serious car accident last Friday. There isn’t any reasonable explanation that offers us any comfort at times like this. It is impossible to understand why these things happen to joyful, caring people. Nothing erases the empty feeling we all have right now.

We will gather as a school community on Monday morning to pray for the Hutchings family. Our liturgy will be held in the Undercover area at 8.45am and we welcome every member of our community to join us and support the family and each other in prayer.

This Sunday we commence the season of Advent. The purpose of Advent is for us to prepare for the season of Christmas. The season of Advent helps to remind us of the importance of the Christmas season and it helps us to prepare in our hearts, in our mind and in our world to celebrate Jesus’ birth. Through Jesus we can discover what we are called to be. Through Christmas we celebrate that God is with us. Advent calls us to prepare to help bring about the presence of God in our world and to recognize His presence in our world. Over the next two weeks our students will participate in school liturgies to recognize and celebrate the significance of Advent and Christmas to Christians.

Today our Year 4/5 students went on an excursion to Parliament House as part of their work on Civics and Governance. The students participated in a tour which included viewing parliament in action and an opportunity to meet a member of parliament. After the tour they attended a Northern Territory Electoral Commission session which provided them with information about elections and voting. Next week our Year 5/6 students will go on their excursion to Parliament House and will celebrate Mass at the Cathedral. We thank our teachers for all the work they put in to organizing these relevant excursions.

Our Year five student have been very busy writing their expression of interest letters and nomination speeches for the leadership positions for 2014. They have put a great deal of thought into their own leadership skills and how they can serve others in our school community. Students can nominate for School Captain, Student Representative Council (SRC) and Sports Captain. They will present their speeches to the student body on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings next week, with times to be confirmed later this week. On Friday 6th December Years three to six will vote for our 2014 leaders. Next year our elected leaders will attend a leadership training program to support them in their roles at Sacred Heart.

Our Annual Book Fair at Sacred Heart is well underway and many students went through the book fair today in order to create their wish lists to bring home to families. The Library will be open from 8am to 4pm today through to Friday 29th November in order for books to be viewed or purchased. Money raised through the book fair is put back into purchasing more books for our library.

Let us put our trust in God as we go through this difficult time together for He is our strength and ever-present help.

Gez, Lyn, Cate and Lindsay

School Fees—2014

In 2014 school fees will be charged once a year at the beginning of the year. Payment plan options will be sent home with your first statement so that families can choose to either pay annually, per term, per month, per fortnight or weekly. There will be 5% discount on fees if families pay total annual fees before the end of term 1. A reminder statement will be sent home every term. If you have any queries please contact the office on 8932 2888.

Mrs Widya Lieminda, Finance Officer (widya.lieminda@nt.catholic.edu.au)
Dear Parents and Carers,

This week our community was shocked and saddened with the news that we had lost one of our students along with her mother. Mikayla touched our lives and made a footprint on our hearts forever. We pray for her and her mother Theresa, and send our prayers of strength to her husband Robert and son Mathew.

We pray also for Andrew (Mikayla’s older brother) who is fighting for his life in hospital. May he be given strength and courage through our prayers.

Please give comfort and support to all those who share this pain.

Margaret Howe – DSTA  margaret.howe@nt.catholic.edu.au

As we walk through life we share the road with many people.

Some smile as they pass, and are gone.
Some touch our hands, and walk with us a while.

Our lives are touched by each and every person we meet.

Sometimes just a brief encounter or a quick hello.

Sometimes an impact so great our lives are never quite the same again.
Placements for Holiday Care over the Christmas break close on Friday 29th November.
Vacation Care is open from 16 to 20 December then closed for 2 weeks. Re-opening on 6 January until school commences on Thursday 30 January 2014 (excluding public holidays). Spaces are limited.
For an enrolment form or more information please see Desleigh at OSHC or phone OSHC on 8932 9586 or contact them via the school office on 8932 2888.

Class of the Week

Across our school students participated in an Integrated Indonesian Cultural Unit with their class teacher. Language/cultural information associated with the unit was learned in Indonesian lessons. Here are some photos of our activities.

Indonesian

Room 11 made Javanese Masks

Rooms 14 and 15 did Indonesian cooking and made Nasi Goreng, Mie Goreng and Soto Ayam.
Welcome to our School Community …

A warm welcome to
The Rielly Family – Tara Yr 4/5 Rm 10,
Kayley Yr 1/2 Rm 7 and Haidan Tran Rm 1
We pray you will settle in quickly, make new friends and enjoy your time at Sacred Heart.

Scholastic Book Fair
ALL WEEK
8am - 4pm
Parents are welcome
Come along and support your school.

Early Learning Centre Christmas Party
1.30pm Friday 6th December

Pope Francis asks NT Catholics for their views on the family

Pope Francis has asked us to extend an invitation to Catholics from our diocese to participate in a worldwide Catholic questionnaire on the many challenges facing the family today. We are collating responses at a diocesan level and to assist in this regard we have laid out some information and instructions on our website.

This includes a link to an online survey where Catholics can respond to the questionnaire directly.
- [www.darwin.catholic.org.au/synod.htm](http://www.darwin.catholic.org.au/synod.htm) - page with information and instructions for responding to the questionnaire
- [www.surveymonkey.com/s/ntsynod](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/ntsynod) - online survey

Responses need to be submitted by Friday 6 December.

End of Term Canteen Orders

Miss Linda is running stocks down in the canteen leading up to the school holidays. She will endeavour to fill lunch orders, however, may need to substitute some items.

P & F Christmas Raffle

Thank you to all those families who have donated items for the P & F Christmas Raffle.

We need donations of suitable items eg Christmas food, crafts, gifts, decorations.

*Donations can be brought to the office before next Wednesday.*

The raffle will be drawn next Friday, 6th December.
Please remember to return all raffle tickets before then.
Fast Five with…..

Mitchell GASKIN
Yr 5 Rm 9

What is your favourite colour?
Red.

What is your favourite food?
Sushi.

What is your favourite place?
Queensland.

What do you do in your spare time?
Play X-box or jump on the trampoline.

Why is Sacred Heart the best school ever?
Because my friends are here.

Community Notices

Join an ‘Encounter’ to the Pacific nation of Kiribati with Palms Australia, a Catholic organisation which has prepared, placed and supported skilled Australian volunteers in Asia, Africa and the Pacific for over 50 years. A Palms Encounter is perfect for anyone interested in learning about another culture, as well as those interested in social justice and reducing poverty.

During this cross-cultural experience you will gain insight into the life of work of Palms’ volunteers, and learn about pressing development issues facing Kiribati, including climate change. A limited number of spaces are available for our next visit to the Pacific island nation of Kiribati, 11-23 February 2014. For further information visit: http://www.palms.org.au/encounters, email: encounter@palms.org.au, or call Palms on 02 9518 9551.

Another Encounter you may be interested in is East Timor in September 2014. We also welcome enquiries from staff or student groups who would like to book a private Encounter.