Dear Parents, Teachers and Friends,

During the next four weeks of Advent, let’s try to put other distractions aside that occur at this time of the year. The four weeks of Advent allow us time to ponder how Jesus came into this world in such a stunningly humble way. As we contemplate His birth in a bed of straw in a messy stable, perhaps, we see our own life being a little messy too. Our life is often distracted, self-centred and sometimes leaves us wishing we were better people. But if we slow down and refocus our attention, we might realise that God is there, waiting to love us even though we have so many unfulfilled good intentions and so many unfulfilled desires about our spirituality.

God, our Father

We thank you for your love for us,
A love that reaches out to accept us, no matter what our circumstance.
As we contemplate the arrival of Your Son, Help us to share our love with others.
May our love like Yours, be abundant and healing.
Amen.
VISITING TEACHERS
This week, new Head of Primary Mr Andrew Gammon, and Year 2 teacher Miss Elizabeth Ferla, will be visiting St Mary’s to meet with staff, students and some parents. We look forward to Andrew and Elizabeth sharing their gifts and talents with our school community in the coming years.

RECONCILIATION
Last Thursday evening we witnessed a very reverent First Reconciliation liturgy for our Year 3 students. Fr Mariusz and Fr Kris welcomed the children warmly to this important milestone in their faith lives. Thank you to Mrs Nicole Nuttall who ensured the liturgy and preparation of the students was thorough and well-coordinated.

ADVENT LITURGY
The first of our Advent Liturgies is being celebrated tomorrow at 2:00 pm in the school hall. Our Pre-primary class will be leading the liturgy and all parents and friends are welcome to attend.

PARENT THANK YOU
A thank you morning tea is planned for 10:50 am on the 9th December for all our generous parents and community members who have helped and supported St Mary’s this year. We are always grateful for all our community does for us. Staff will be preparing the morning tea which will follow our final Advent Liturgy presented by our Year 1 class at 10:30 am in the school hall.

PUPIL FREE DAY
This Friday is a staff professional development day and as such there is no school for students.

INTERSCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL
The Interschool Swimming Carnival is being held next Friday, December 4th. Participating students from St Mary’s will be notified and transported to and from the event on the day by bus. Parents and friends are welcome to come down on the day and support the students as they compete with competitors from the other town schools.

NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS
We welcome to St Mary’s school board Mr Craig Zwetsloop and Mr Jim Andreoli. Craig and Jim join the school board for the first time and we look forward to them sharing their expertise and skills with the school community in the coming years. Many thanks to board members who have not renominated Mrs Di Ramirez and Mr Max March. I would personally like to thank Di and Max for the wisdom they have shared with other board members over the years.

NEW PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEMBERS
Mr Gavin Griffiths and Mrs Claire Van Dongen have been elected to the executive of the school’s Parents and Friends group. Both Gavin and Claire bring new ideas and enthusiasm to the P & F and we look forward to them sharing their gifts and talents with us all in the coming years. Farewell to Mr Amosa Sipili and Mrs Tammy March who are standing down from the P & F Executive from 2016. Both have given much commitment, time and energy to our P & F group and they will be missed. We still hope Tammy and Amosa will be able to share their experience and knowledge with current P & F members when P & F events and celebrations occur.

SWIMMING CARNIVALS
A huge than you to Mr Ryan Kent who has coordinated the St Mary’s swimming events over the past couple of weeks. Mr Kent organized a very successful Splash Carnival for our juniors and last Wednesday we witnessed a very successful and smooth Faction Swimming Carnival. Both were a credit to Mr Kent’s organisational skills.
Thanks also to Mr Peter Brookes who did much work in the background ensuring all was ready for successful carnivals to occur. Thanks to the many parents and teachers who helped out on the day; without your assistance the carnivals wouldn’t have run as smoothly as they did.
CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Jerolina Rankin, mother of Ethan in Year 3 and Indah in Year 1, who took out the top prize in the WA’s Signature Dish competition held at the Margaret River Gourmet Escape on the weekend. Jerolina presented a broth with shark bay prawns and locally sought Carnarvon zucchinis.

God Bless

Mr Steve O’Halloran
Principal

Pupil Free Days and Holidays
Term 4 2015
Friday 27th November Pupil Free Day
Thursday 10th December Last day for students

Middle School News

Thank you to all students and staff for the smooth running of exams and testing this week. It will be a mammoth effort for teachers to mark all exams and begin entering data for the reports coming up during the next few weeks – so please be patient with one another! Students are still finishing off end-of-year assessments and they will be expected to work up to the last week.

The Year 7 Transition and Orientation Program (TOP) is scheduled for Monday next week where we will host all current Year 6 students who are enrolled for Middle School at St Mary’s next year. It promises to be a great day of activities with tasters in Design Technology - Woodwork, Visual Art, Food and Digital Technology. I am looking forward to meeting this new group of students who will bring many skills and personality I am sure, to our Middle School.

The Year 10s have decided to host their Graduation dinner at an external venue this year. Invitations are being prepared for this event. We hope that many of you will be able to join us for their Graduation Mass on Tuesday 8 December at 6pm at St Mary Star of the Sea Church. This is a very important time for these students as they represent the last year of our St Mary students, before they become Nagle Catholic College students next year. It wasn’t that long ago when I first started at St Mary’s in 2011 when these students were in Year 6 and about to embark into the big world of ‘middle school’. And now, we will farewell them soon to enter the first Catholic Year 11 campus in Carnarvon for 2016 – a fleeting dream back in 2011 when the seeds were planted (yet again) of this vision for Catholic Secondary schooling for Carnarvon. Exciting times ahead indeed!

In closing, I was reading about the Advent wreath today and realised how easy it is to forget how strong a symbol can be in our lives. The light of the candles in the Advent wreath signifies the light of Christ Who comes into the world at Christmas. The individual candles themselves symbolise Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. As you light each one of your candles this Advent season, you may choose to reflect upon these wonderful gifts. We can get too carried away with the commercialism of Christmas and over-indulge in the festive season sometimes – so to pause and reflect upon others in the world who may not be as fortunate, would be an amazing gift of prayer we could all give, this Advent season.

Take care until the next time …

Kind regards

Sam Da Luz
Head of Middle School
The Year 10 Students are proud to announce that the 2016 School Calendar is now available to preview and order! Secure your copy today by completing an order form and paying at the front office. The calendars feature several images from each class, so they will make great Christmas stocking fillers. All proceeds raised will go towards the purchasing of a new school bus.

The cost of the Calendar is $20-00 and is available to view at the school office and the JLC. Thank you for your support.

News from Parish

- Please, mark your calendars - Christmas Musical - will be held on Sunday 6th December at 7 pm and Monday 14th December at 7 pm.
- November is the month of the holy souls. This is our opportunity to pray for the souls of our departed loved ones.
- The WYD 2016 Pilgrims would like to thank parishioners for their support and are pleased to announce the winners for the raffle are: 1st Margaret (Exmouth), 2nd Tammy March and 3rd Eileen Dellar (Exmouth). Big thank you to everyone who bought tickets and help to make the Raffle a success. A total of $ 315 was raised.

St Mary Star of the Sea Parish
Parish Priest: Fr Mariusz
Assistant Priest: Fr Chris
Phone: 99411768

Weekend Mass Times:
Saturday 7pm
Sunday 8am & 10am

St Mary Star of the Sea Parish
Year Seven’s have been testing mixtures for Solubility.

To help us with our planning for 2016 please inform the front office if your child/children will not be returning to St Marys next year.

Uniform Shop News
The Uniform Shop is open every Tuesday and Thursday till the end of term from 3.15pm to 4.15pm. Come in and see Charmaine or contact the school office on 99411 328 for more details.
St Mary’s Thank You Morning Tea

When: Wednesday 9th December 2015
Time: 10.50am
Where: St Mary’s School Staffroom
RSVP: Kim Faithfull
9941 1328
8th December 2015

In recognition of the help and support you have provided to the staff and students of St Mary Star of the Sea Catholic School, we would like to invite you to the annual Thankyou Morning Tea.

Without your support of the many events in the School, it wouldn’t have the wonderful community spirit and facilities it has today
We look forward to seeing you there.

Mr Steve O’Halloran
Principal
Parents and carers are invited to complete this online survey into the Carnarvon community’s needs regarding after school and vacation care.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HCTXT5N

The survey is coordinated by Ms Carolyn Pegler, Regional Development Officer for the Regional Children’s Services Plan – Gascoyne. If there are any queries please direct them to Ms Pegler 9921 4477.

If you have already completed this survey either online or on paper form during the Children’s Week celebrations, please do not complete again.