

6 December 2016

*In a Christian way we learn today for tomorrow*



Dear Parents, Pupils and Parishioners,

*This year has flown by, enjoy the last 8 days of school.*

#### END OF YEAR SCHOOL MASS – THIS THURSDAY

(8th DECEMBER) AT 9.30 am in ST PATRICK'S CHURCH as ALL OUR PUPILS celebrate Mass together and thank God for the many blessings 2016 has brought us. Thursday is also a FEAST DAY – The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, so a double celebration. **SEE YOU THURSDAY!**

#### THANK YOU TO THE WONDERFUL STAFF

I would like to thank all our teachers and support staff at St Patrick's School for making 2016 such a positive year. I hope our parents and children appreciate the care our staff show and the hard work they put into making sure that our children receive the best opportunities possible in a Catholic environment. They deserve a thank you and a well-earned break.

In 2017 we welcome back Mrs Somerville (teaching Year 3/4) and also a new Aimee Newport (Miss Dine) who is getting married in January to Liam.

#### RAFFLE

**CAN IT BE IN TOMORROW PLEASE!** – Thank you to everyone for your enthusiasm in selling these.

#### SCHOOL ACCOUNTS – STILL OWING

Thank you to all those who have either paid off or are paying off your school account with an AP. Unfortunately we STILL have a number of families who have not yet paid their accounts. **PLEASE DO THIS WEEK** – save me an **UNPLEASANT** phone call next week.

#### GOSPEL VALUE FOR DECEMBER – KINDNESS

Our final value for 2016 is **“Acting With Kindness.”** How do we show **our** kindness to others? A wonderful thing for us to practise as we prepare for Christmas and the celebration of the birth of Christ.

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

We thank our students who are **“altar servers”** for their dedication and for the important role they play during the Mass. It is wonderful to see them living out their faith in such a practical way. **This Wednesday** we will shout them a **PIZZA LUNCH** to show them our appreciation and to say thank you.

On Friday we acknowledge our House Captains and the contribution they have made to our school this year. A “lunch out” is on the agenda.

#### END OF YEAR PUPIL REPORTS

These will be given to pupils on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup>** at school and should be opened **at home with you.** Please be positive about the reports when you discuss them. There has been some great progress made by your children this year.

(The “next steps” are a guide for next year!) Your child's class and year level for 2017 is included in the report.

**Please note:-Year 8 reports** will be given out at prizegiving on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup>.

#### THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The twelve days of Christmas is actually a catechism song, which arose from a time when Catholics were not allowed to practice their faith openly. Without the regular liturgical celebrations or catechism lessons from the priests, the parents and priests needed a way to help the children continue to learn and keep the Catholic faith in their lives.

The ‘true love’ mentioned in the song, who gives all these gifts, refers to God himself. ‘A partridge in a pear tree’ is Jesus Christ. A mother partridge will fake injury to decoy predators from her helpless nestlings – the acts of the mother bird parallels with the sacrifice of Jesus for us.

#### **The symbolism continues throughout the song:**

Two turtle doves – The Old and New Testaments

Three French hens – Faith, Hope and Charity

Four calling birds – The Four Gospels

Five golden rings – The first five books of the Old Testament

Six geese a laying – The six days of creation

Seven swans a swimming – Seven gifts of the Holy Spirit

Eight maids a milking – The eight Beatitudes

Nine ladies dancing – Nine choirs of Angels

Ten lords a leaping – The Ten Commandments

Eleven pipers piping – The eleven faithful Apostles

Twelve drummers drumming – the twelve points of belief in the Apostles Creed

#### CLARINETS

All clarinets need to be returned to Miss Morgan at lunchtime on **Thursday 8 December.**

#### END OF YEAR EVENTS / PRIZEGIVING 2016

**8<sup>th</sup> December** – End of Year School Mass – 9.30am St Patrick's Church

**8<sup>th</sup> December** – Year 8 leaver's dinner

15 December – Syndicate Prizegivings / farewell Assemblies

**11.00am** – Middle Syndicate in School Hall

**12.00** – Junior Syndicate in Hall (stay for lunch)

**7.00pm** – Senior Syndicate at St Patrick's Church

**16 December** – End of Term. School finishes at **12.30 (No Afterschool Care)**

#### TERM DATES FOR 2017

TERM 1: **TUESDAY 31 January** – 13 April (Easter)

TERM 2: 1 May - 7 July

TERM 3: 24 July - 29 September

TERM 4: 16 October - 15 December



Regards and Blessings

Jurek Wypych  
PRINCIPAL