Dear Parents,

Recently some classes have been reflecting on the following Scripture verse:

*Never have grudges against others, or lose your temper, or raise your voice to anybody, or call each other names, or allow any sort of spitefulness. Be friends with one another, and kind, forgiving each other as readily as God forgave you in Christ.*

*Ephesians 4:31-32*

It is a wonderful reminder to all that Jesus has given us a clear direction in the manner in which, as Christians, we should endeavour to live our lives.

CONFIRMATION

Last Friday evening our Yr 6 students presented themselves to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. They are to be commended on the manner in which they prepared and presented themselves, doing themselves, families and school proud. I would also like to thank and acknowledge the staff who worked to ensure that the students were well prepared and that the ceremony was a success.

BOOK WEEK

This year we will celebrate Book Week in the week commencing Monday 31st August. Our Book Parade will be on Tuesday 1st September. This year’s theme is: “Books Light Up Our World”

CONCERT

Please read the information below regarding the Concert. A reminder that costumes need to be organised by Friday 4th September.

WORKING BEE – Saturday 5th September

There is a Working Bee planned for Saturday 5th September. Please refer to the flyer below.

RECONCILIATION

This evening there is a Reconciliation Workshop for Yr 3 students and their parents as part of the Reconciliation program. The evening commences at 7pm in the Hall. On Saturday evening, those preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation are expected to attend a Commitment Mass at either the 5:30pm Mass at Sacred Heart or the 7pm Mass at Christ Our Holy Redeemer.

DISTRICT ATHLETICS

67 students from Yrs 3 – 6 will be representing our school at the District Athletics on Monday 31st August at the Knox Athletics track (Bunjil Way, Knoxfield, off Ferntree Gully Rd).

“HOOKED ON A FEELING”-Thursday 17th September at 7pm at Sacred Heart College. Students are expected at the hall at 6:30pm, dressed and ready to be seated.

Tickets Order forms were sent home last week. Tickets are available to parents and siblings at the school. There will be no designated seats. This ensures that each family will be represented as there are limited seats in the hall. Once all families have purchased tickets we will be able to gauge how many extra tickets will be available for sale.

Dress Rehearsal on Wednesday 16th September at 1:30pm in the COHR hall. This is an opportunity for any family members/friends, especially grandparents who will not be attending on the night of the concert.

TERM THREE DATES

August

- Thursday 27th Reconciliation Family Information 7pm (COHR)
- Saturday 29th Reconciliation Commitment Mass 5:30pm (SH) or 7pm (COHR)
- Monday 31st Book Week Books Light Up Our World

September

- Tuesday 1st Book Week Parade
- Thursday 3rd Fathers’ Day Stall
- Saturday 5th Working Bee – 8am until 10:30am
- Sunday 6th Fathers’ day
- Thursday 17th CONCERT
- Friday 18th End of term – children dismissed 2:30pm.

October

- Monday 5th Term 4 commences

With best wishes,

Thomas Coghlan
PRINCIPAL
2016 FETE
Last night we took our first steps in organising next year’s Fete. The Fete will be held on Friday 18th November. Already a committee is forming, but we need a President and at least two Vice-Presidents. Already we have a Treasurer, and a number of very enthusiastic committee members. If you are willing or interested in joining the Fete Committee or willing to accept the role of President or as Vice President, please let either myself or Tracey Simos (PA President – 0417 490 125) know what role you would like to fulfil.

The next Fete meeting will be held at 7am on Wednesday 23rd September. Immediately before the PA meeting. Presently I am finalising quotes and details to add more playground equipment for the children. The early indications that these additions will cost around $100 000. Presently the Parents’ Association have $60 000 that will be contributed to the cost. All funds raised by the PA will be directed towards these exciting improvements.

FATHERS’ DAY STALL
The Fathers Day stall will be held on Thursday 3rd September. Gifts will range in price from $1 - $8. Raffle tickets will be 50c each. The gifts will be set up on Wednesday afternoon from 2pm in the Hall.

SILENT AUCTION: There is a Silent Auction of a signed Richmond Football Jumper, a gas outdoor patio heater, and a voucher from Rapid Tune to the value of $800+ as well as the carpark for Term 4.
The Rock Star Car Park auction is currently underway in the foyer.
The silent auction for the remaining items begins on Monday. Bidding will close at 3:30pm on Friday 4th September to enable the successful bidders to collect their items for Fathers’ day.

NIGHT MARKET
Save the Date: COHR will be holding a Market Night on Thursday 19th November.
More information closer to the date.

Fathers’ Day Stall
Thursday 3rd September 2015

All Children will have the opportunity to purchase a gift.
Gifts will range from $2.00 to $8.00

A raffle will also be held on this day.
Children will be able to buy tickets for the raffle at the Fathers’ Day stall at 50c a ticket.

We are looking for parent helpers to donate their time on
Wednesday 2nd September from 2.00pm (toddlers welcome) to prepare and wrap gifts.
Also on Thursday 3rd September from 9.30am, to set up and serve at the Fathers’ Day stall.
Your help would be greatly appreciated.

If you can help on either day, please complete & return to the office

Your Name: ____________________________Childs Grade: ________________

Phone No.: __________________________Day available: Wednesday/Thursday/Both
Catholic family life is an opportunity to recognise the grace of God in our daily lives.
You are invited to nurture your family's faith with the readings, reflections and activities below...
For more resources, check out our COHR Religion Blog – http://recohr.global2.vic.edu.au

**THIS SUNDAY’S GOSPEL**

*Year B – 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time*

*Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

Jesus confronts the Pharisees, who pay only lip service to God.

The Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered round Jesus, and they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with unclean hands, that is, without washing them. For the Pharisees, and the Jews in general, follow the tradition of the elders and never eat without washing their arms as far as the elbow; and on returning from the marketplace they never eat without first sprinkling themselves. There are also many other observances which have been handed down to them concerning the washing of cups and pots and bronze dishes.

So these Pharisees and scribes asked him, ‘Why do your disciples not respect the tradition of the elders but eat their food with unclean hands?’ He answered, ‘It was of you hypocrites that Isaiah so rightly prophesied in this passage of scripture:

This people honours me only with lip-service, while their hearts are far from me. The worship they offer me is worthless, the doctrines they teach are only human regulations. You put aside the commandment of God to cling to human traditions.’

He called the people to him again and said, ‘Listen to me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that goes into a man from outside can make him unclean; it is the things that come out of a man that make him unclean. For it is from within, from men’s hearts, that evil intentions emerge: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, malice, deceit, indecency, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within and make a man unclean.’

**FAMILY CONNECTION**

Children have learned the importance of following rules. Like the Pharisees in this Sunday’s Gospel, they often bring to our attention the infractions of others. Even parents sometimes get caught off guard by their children’s observations: “Why don’t you have to go to bed at 8:00?” or “But I saw you eat a cupcake before breakfast once.”

Our rules for our children are not arbitrary. We establish and enforce family rules with the intention of helping our children grow to be healthy and mature adults. We foster this maturity when we also initiate conversations with our children about the purposes behind family rules and teach them the essential values that rules help us observe.

As you gather as a family, list some of your most important family rules. Together, try to write a single, positive statement that captures the essential value behind your family rules. In this Sunday’s Gospel, we hear Jesus criticize the Pharisees for making their rules about ritual purity equal to the commandments of God’s Law.

Read this Sunday’s Gospel. When we remember the essential element behind our rules, we see that our rules help us be the good people that Jesus wants us to be. Conclude in prayer together that we may always honour God’s Law in our words and deeds.

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**Mark’s Audience**

It is widely believed that the Gospel of Mark was written for a predominantly Greek-speaking, Gentile audience. Today’s gospel passage is a perfect example of literary evidence that has been used to establish this position. The gospel writer clearly explains the Jewish practice of washing before eating and ritual cleansing upon return from the marketplace where they would have encountered Gentiles. Obviously, a Jewish audience would not need this explanation. This practice of looking for information about the author and their audience within the text itself is a form of Literary Criticism.

**Historical Context**

**Pharisees**

Pharisees were mostly lay men (i.e. generally not Priests) who were characterised by a strict observance of the Torah as well as an oral tradition of teaching and interpretation. They believed that the Torah required interpretation – by engaging in this interpretation they participated in God’s ongoing revelation. They also had a strong belief that all Jewish people were called to be a priestly people. This belief naturally put them at odds with the Priests of the Temple. After the destruction of the Temple in 70 CE, the teachings of the Pharisees gained prominence and eventually developed into Rabbinic Judaism that continues today.

**Gospel Focus**

We live in a culture that is very quick to lay blame on external factors; some people are very reluctant to accept responsibility for their own actions and look for opportunities to distance themselves from feelings of guilt or even regret. Jesus makes it very clear that evil intentions – the things that make a person ‘unclean’ – actually come from within. He presents a confronting list of the things that come from within and we may be able to add others relevant to our own time. In our culture of no personal responsibility, Jesus challenges us to rethink just where the buck does stop.
This will be a great opportunity to tidy school grounds as well as enjoy a sausage sizzle afterwards.

The **Reflective Garden** needs a lot of attention. We need to prune, and weed the garden, especially the area closer to the church in order to plant new shrubs.

We plan to **rake the existing tanbark** on the adventure playgrounds to ensure there is a consistent depth.

We also plan to **glue yellow safety strips** (or paint) on all stairways in the school grounds.

**We would appreciate as many as possible at this working bee.**

We would also appreciate more wheelbarrows and gardening tools.

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**Working Bee**

The ........................................family is/isn’t able to attend the Working Bee on Saturday 5th September from 8-10:30am.

Signed........................................Date........................................