Dear Parents,

In the Gospel reading this weekend Jesus asks his disciples, ‘Who do you say I am?’ When Peter answers Jesus’ question he demonstrates the disciples’ dawning awareness of Jesus’ true identity. It is the first occasion that the disciples are called to own what they think about Jesus. However, when Jesus begins to spell out what being the Messiah reality means – persecution and death – Peter tries to convince Jesus that he doesn’t need to go down that path. It is a reminder of the challenges he faced in order to fulfil his life. This is a challenge for us – Who am I? How do I show I am a follower of Christ?

Here at Christ Our Holy Redeemer, we can be proud of the journey taken over the past term, let alone the past year. We witness good role modelling, words of encouragement, offers of assistance and opportunities for friendship and support. Thank you to the many people who have come together in particular for the school concert – it is a credit to our school community.

WORKING BEE
The small group of parents and children who attended the Working Bee on Saturday morning did an amazing job weeding and planting in the Reflective Garden. We were able to remove unwanted/broken furniture and items from the classrooms and sheds where they had been stored for a number of years. Many thanks to all those concerned.

Early in term 4 we will order mulch for the garden, now that it has been weeded.

CHESS CLUB
We had about 25 students from year 3-6 who attended lunchtime Chess Club, run by Northern Star Chess. Each week they learned a new move and had the opportunity to put these into practice when they played against their opponent. Points were awarded weekly by the chess teachers. The following students were awarded High Distinctions.

Noah Simoni 3/ 4 B
Kristian Aparo 5/ 6PT
Annsreeya Shiraj 5/ 6 W

TIQBIZ
It is wonderful to see and hear from the number of families who have downloaded Tiqbiz. Many have commented on how useful it has been to receive the constant updates and reminders especially at busy times of the year such as the school concert.

CONCERT
As we make final preparations for the school concert next week, we would like to remind you that our Dress Rehearsal is on Wednesday 16th at our school hall here at Christ Our Holy Redeemer, starting at 1.30pm for those who cannot attend the Concert Night. Please let the office know if you (family members) will be attending this dress rehearsal. We still have extra tickets available from the office.

The Concert Rehearsal is on Thursday 17th at Sacred Heart College during the day, where the whole school will be bussed to and from the College.

The Concert starts promptly at 7pm, so we ask that all students are seated by 6:30pm. As there is no onsite parking, please allow enough time to park in surrounding streets. Please be mindful when parking as there have been issues in the past at Sacred Heart College events where driveways have been blocked.

PHOTOGRAPHY
A huge thankyou to Jo Armeo who worked all day from 8am to 3:30pm to take photos of all the students and each class group. The Parent’s Association will be selling these photographs on Wed morning in the school foyer, as well as at the college before the concert itself and on Friday morning back at school. Class teachers were very grateful for the help they received from the many parents who helped dress/facepaint the students for the photo sessions. Many thanks to Maddie Seel, (Mrs Seel’s daughter) who spent a number of hours each week assisting some classes with their choreography. These are all perfect examples of the school community working together. We also have a number of staff who used their dancing skills to assist other classes with their performances.

PORTFOLIOS
A reminder that portfolios will be sent home next Friday (the last day of term). This is an opportunity to view some examples of your child’s work this term.

Mr Coghlan’s Blog Address
tomscamino.global2.vic.edu.au
Follow Mr Coghlan’s camino walk by reading his blog.
FOOTY COLOURS DAY – PIE DAY
Tomorrow is Footy Colours Day. Students wear casual clothes with a footy theme, (any code).

END OF TERM
There will be an end of term prayer celebration in the hall at 2pm next Friday. All welcome.
School finishes at 2.30pm

FATHERS DAY RAFFLE
The winners of the Fathers day raffle were:
Billy Rallis Prep H
Siera Airo Farulla Prep D
James Galante 1/2CP
Gianluca Florio 1/2W
Dean Bombonati 1/2SP
Mary Marcella Lee 1/2S
James Leslie 3/4L
Sophia Donnellon 3/4EP
Lucia Bancovich 3/4JP
Jack Iverson 3/4B
Liana Montibeller 5/6K
Daniel Grano 5/6W
Ashlee Ettia 5/6PT

MAGPIES SWOOPING
We have had a number of families who have reported being swooped by magpies on the way to and from school. This has happened near the oval and in Whiton St. Just a reminder to be aware.
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 – 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

*Mark 8:27-35*

You are the Christ… the Son of Man was destined to suffer much.

Jesus and his disciples left for the villages round Caesarea Philippi. On the way he put this question to his disciples, ‘Who do people say I am?’ And they told him. ‘John the Baptist,’ they said, ‘others Elijah; others again, one of the prophets.’ ‘But you,’ he asked, ‘who do you say I am?’ Peter spoke up and said to him, ‘You are the Christ.’ And he gave them strict orders not to tell anyone about him.

And he began to teach them that the Son of Man was destined to suffer grievously, to be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes, and to be put to death, and after three days to rise again; and he said all this quite openly. Then, taking him aside, Peter started to remonstrate with him. But, turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said to him, ‘Get behind me, Satan! Because the way you think is not God's way but man's.’

He called the people and his disciples to him and said, ‘If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him renounce himself and take up his cross and follow me. For anyone who wants to save his life will lose it; but anyone who loses his life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.’

**FAMILY CONNECTION**

Peter had expectations about what it meant to call Jesus the Messiah, the Christ. Jesus was indeed the Messiah, but his life and death would show a different understanding of what it means to be the Messiah. We, too, have expectations of God and our own ideas about what we think God ought to be doing in our world. Like Peter, however, we may risk limiting our image of God by thinking only in human ways. God’s plan is always more that we can ever imagine.

As you gather as a family, talk about what we expect God to be doing in our world and in our family life. Then read this Sunday’s Gospel. Why do you think Peter was so upset by what Jesus was saying? Notice how Jesus reprimands Peter. Do we sometimes forget to let God be God for us? That is, do we sometimes get discouraged because God doesn’t act in our world in the ways that we expect?

Pray together that we will remember that God is always working for the world’s salvation in ways that are beyond our imagination.

---

**Scriptural Context**

**A Turning Point**

This passage forms a crucial turning point in the Gospel of Mark. It occurs at the very mid-point of the gospel – the end of chapter 8 in a 16 chapter gospel. From this point on the gospel takes a greater focus on what it means to be a disciple and Jesus’ movement towards Jerusalem. This passage in which Peter processes his faith in Jesus as the Messiah is immediately followed by the account of the Transfiguration. From this point onwards, the gospel writer reveals the growing understanding of Jesus’ identity that until now has been wrapped in secrecy.

**Sandwich Technique**

The Gospel of Mark is famous for a technique of ‘sandwiching’ stories or sections between two related events to bring what is sandwiched into greater focus. This gospel passage falls within a significant sandwich that runs from 8:22 (the healing of a blind man at Bethsaida) to 10:52 (the healing of blind Bartimaeus). The healings of blindness that surround the sandwich reflect the lack of ‘sight’ that the disciples have. The ‘meat’ of the sandwich is all about the disciples not really understanding Jesus’ mission and what it means to truly be a disciple. Read the whole section from 8:22 – 10:52 and see how it works.

**Gospel Focus**

**Peter’s insight**

When Peter answers Jesus’ question he demonstrates the disciples’ dawning awareness of Jesus’ true identity. It is the first occasion that the disciples are called to own what they think about Jesus. However, when Jesus begins to spell out what being the Messiah really means – persecution and death – Peter tries to convince Jesus that he doesn’t need to go down that path. Jesus turns on Peter and snaps, “Get behind me, Satan!” It is a reminder of the desert temptation Jesus had to face at the start of his ministry when he wrestled with what sort of Messiah he was called to be.