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Dear Parents,

Sunday's gospel is perhaps the most famous of the parables that are unique to the Gospel of Luke. Popularly known as the Parable of the Prodigal Son, a more appropriate title might be the parable of the Forgiving Father, because the focus of the story is primarily on the father's love and mercy toward his sons. In this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we reflect on our actions and reactions of welcome, acceptance and forgiveness.



As the younger son returned asking for forgiveness, he was confronted with the mercy of his father: "While he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was moved with pity. He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms and kissed him tenderly." The father displayed eagerness and enthusiasm to welcome his family home.

As followers of Jesus, we are invited to share in the values of compassion, forgiveness and of mercy. We are invited to follow the path of welcome, even in times of doubt. Each time we pray the 'Our Father' we are asking God to forgive us as we forgive others. We are invited to repair relationships and live harmoniously in community.

We pray that we continue to show these values through our words and actions towards each other.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

We were able to complete school photos on Monday. If you would like to purchase photos and have not returned your order forms, please contact Schoolpix (telephone) 87864800 (website) <https://schoolpix.com.au/>

COHR MOVIE NIGHT

We look forward to tomorrow night's outdoor movie. We are still looking for parent helpers – there is a sheet in the Foyer to offer your assistance. Don't forget to bring your chairs/picnic rug and snacks. Popcorn, fairy floss and drinks will be available to purchase on the night.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association will meet next Monday 7th March at 7pm. The main items on the Agenda will be Sports Day, Open day and Combined Schools Mass. All parents are welcome to come to any PA meeting.

We are also looking for a few more parents to take on the role of Class Representative. Class reps are as follows:

- Prep L: Jacqui Roussos, & Andrew Manokaran
- Prep H: Natasha Finamore & Yetta Nelson
- 1/2P: Jody Lawson & Jo Airo Farulla
- 1/2S: Antoinette Tartaro & Carol Meddis
- 1/2C: **two positions to be filled**
- 1/2CP: Briely Sheehan & **to be filled**
- 3/4JP: **two positions to be filled**
- 3/4HM: Janine Bird & **to be filled**
- 3/4K: Rosie Lucchese & Christine Bombonati
- 3/4B: Amanda Neophytou & **to be filled**
- 5/6 S: **two positions to be filled**

5/6PT Tamsyn D'Souza & **to be filled**
 5/6W: **two positions to be filled**

Thanks to those parents who have generously put their name forward to take an active role in building our school community. As you can see there are lots of opportunities to be involved and supportive. If you are willing to take on one of these roles, please inform the Office as soon as possible. We are particularly anxious to fill the Class Reps positions.

FETE MEETING

The Fete Committee will meet on Tuesday 8th March at 7:30pm. The meeting will focus on developing a theme for the Fete, looking at the previous fete's 'top ten money' earners, decide on the various stalls, allocate classes to the various roles.

EDUCATION BOARD

At last night's AGM the Education Board welcomed three new parents – Ana Goodman, Rachel Terkelsen and Kylie Payne. They are replacing three retiring members – Michael Girolami, Ron Palermo and Ian Harris. I would like to publicly acknowledge and thank these three parents for making a significant contribution to our school and to the three new members who have generously opted to join the Education Board. Nicole Firth was elected as Chairperson, Kylie Payne as Deputy Chairperson and Angela Stopajnik as Secretary. At the commencement of the meeting, Tony Levett from Catholic Education and Fr John informed the Board of the Principal Appointment process. The Board also examined ways in which the school can better engage parents in their children's learning, as well as looking at a re-vamped Report format.

GALA DAY

Tomorrow the senior students will participate in the Gala Day sport events. Basketball will run at Oakleigh Recreation Centre and the remaining sports (Softball, Rounders and Cricket) will be at Jells Park. We are grateful for the parents who have offered assistance – if you are still willing and able to assist with scoring or umpiring, please let us know as soon as possible. Thank you. We hope the children enjoy a wonderful day.

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS

This year we are undertaking a school Review as part of a cyclical cycle of school improvement and accountability. During these two school closure days the staff will be working on the Report that will be tabled to the reviewer early next term. Please note that the Out of School program is being offered for these two days – bookings are essential. There are already 15 student enrolled for the Thursday.

OPEN DAY

Our "Open Day" will be held on Wednesday 16th March. Student led tours will be offered throughout the day. Enrolments for the 2017 Foundation year will open – they will close for current families on Friday 27th May and for new families on Friday 17th June.

COHR SCHOOL SPORTS

Our annual Sports Day will be held on Thursday 17th March at Davies Reserve (410 - 412 Huntingdale Rd, Huntingdale). The Sports commence at 3:30pm and will conclude around 7pm. **To enable a 3:30 start, the school will be dismissed at 2:30pm.**



Next week we will be seeking the assistance of parents – please be on the lookout for ways in which you can assist.

COMBINED SCHOOLS MASS

Wednesday 23rd March - the Annual Combined School Mass will this year be celebrated at Sacred Heart Primary School. During the day the students from both schools will join in combined activities together and come together at a special Mass in the Hall at 11:15. Parents are most welcome to join us at Mass. A sausage and drink will be provided for lunch on the day. Parent helpers will be needed for this day. If you can assist please phone the office and leave your name.

PARENT HELPERS MEETING

There will be two meetings on **Tuesday 15th March**, one at 9am and the other at 3pm for any parents interested in helping in any classroom or on an excursion throughout the year. At this meeting we will look at our parent helper policy, including protocols for parent helpers at Christ Our Holy Redeemer School. The policy will be made available to parents if needed.

If you would like to be involved as a parent helper and are unable to attend these sessions, please let the office know and information can be forwarded to you.

EARLY ARRIVALS

A reminder that students are not expected at school before 8:35am. The children are not supervised before 8:35am.

HOT CROSS BUNS

Coming home tonight is your hot cross bun order form and information. Please check your child's school bag.

TERM ONE DATES

March

Friday 4	Twilight Movie Night. 5/6 Gala day
Monday 7	Parents Association meeting 7:30pm
Tuesday 8	Fete Committee meeting 7:30pm
Thur 10 & Fri 11	School Closure days
Monday 14	Labour day Holiday
Wednesday 16	OPEN Day
Thursday 17	St Patrick's day – Sports day
Sunday 20	Palm Sunday
Wednesday 23	Combined schools Mass – Sacred Heart PS, Oakleigh
Thursday 24	Holy Thursday Children dismissed for Easter holidays

Term 2

April

Monday 11	Term 2 commences
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With best wishes,

Thomas Coghlan

PRINCIPAL



The Prodigal Son

AFTER SCHOOL CARE CURRICULUM DAY PROGRAM

To assist us with planning appropriate themes and activities please register your interest by contacting us on **0412 958 605**. New families are welcome to attend. Enrolment forms can be found at the school office, the service during normal operating hours (7-9am and 3-6pm), or can be completed online at www.ylv.com.au. We hope to see you there!