Dear Parents, Teachers and Friends,

Being thankful for what we have has been identified as one of the core personal traits individuals who are happy possess. In fact, one of the strategies to encourage greater happiness and feelings of positive self-worth recommended by psychologists is for individuals to write down three things they are thankful for each day. Try it, it works.

The Guardian Angel Prayer for Friends

Guardian Angel, watch over those whose names you can read in my heart. Guard over them with every care and make their way easy and their labours fruitful. Dry their tears if they weep; sanctify their joys; raise their courage if they weaken; restore their hope if they lose heart, their health if they be ill, truth if they err, repentance if they fail.

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Children don't come into the world hardwired to be appreciative or thankful. They learn this over time. Teaching children to be thankful helps them to resist the urge to be self-centred and self-absorbed. It is important for children to appreciate the “good” in their lives, for thankfulness is directly related to happiness. This “good” is centred round the simple pleasures of life: a home, food, clothing, education and the love of family and friends.

We parents are the most significant example of any quality to our children and when it comes to demonstrating thankfulness, we need to portray it not as a shallow formality but something to be internalised and thought about before it is expressed. All children are selfish and ungrateful at times. However, that just gives us an opportunity to encourage deeper thinking in our children, such as the consequences of actions, so they learn to recognise how being thankful is a great way to live.

In our consumer driven society, we might be unwittingly drawn into the culture of the “must-haves”. We don't want to disappoint our children, we want to make sure they have everything their friends have and so we are lead to buy every possible “gadget” that’s ‘fashionable’.

In Australia we now have a National Day of Thanksgiving held in the last week of May. Its purpose is to encourage us “To pause as a nation and say thank you to God and to each other for the many things we often take for granted but which really make our lives worth living. We might use this day to be a blessing to those who have been a blessing to us during the past year. It is a day to celebrate our Christian heritage, demonstrate the love of God, thank those who have made a positive impact on our lives and encourage each other.” What a great concept. Maybe during the year some time, each family could have its own “Family Day of Thanksgiving”.

“Let us be thankful to people who make us happy; they are the charming gardeners who make our souls blossom.” Marcel Proust.

COMMUNIO WEEK
Congratulations to the students of St Mary’s who raised $594 for those less fortunate in our own community. These funds will go towards the Bishop’s Communio Fund which provides support for those agencies in our diocese that provide relief and support for those in difficult circumstances.

COMMIUION COMMITMENT MASS
On Sunday, a number of students from St Mary’s and the parish made their commitment to this year’s First Eucharist programme. We will pray for these students whilst they prepare to receive the sacrament on 31st July.

EXTRA LONG WEEKEND
A reminder to parents that as well as the Monday WA Day holiday this weekend, staff and students also have this Friday, June 3rd, holiday as well.

PRIMARY ASSEMBLY
Year 2 will be leading the Primary classes for in this week’s assembly beginning at 2:00 pm. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

INTERSchool CROSS COUNTRY
The Interschool Cross Country is being held next Friday, June 18th. Competitors will be notified of their selection in the coming days by Mr Kent.

God Bless

Term 2 Dates to Remember

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 3rd June</td>
<td>Catholic Faith Day - School Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 6th June</td>
<td>WA Day - Public Holiday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 1st July</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 19th July</td>
<td>First Day of Term 3</td>
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Head of Primary School
The dynamics in our household have changed a lot recently with the arrival of a new baby and grandparents staying with us to help. It has been easy to forget that the biggest change really has been for our four and six year old boys. As they have tried to be quieter, more independent and loving to their new sister they have also had to adapt to mum and dad giving someone else a lot of attention. Someone once said to me that the best window of opportunity for talking to your kids is right before they fall asleep. Last night this advice proved invaluable as our eldest blurted out all his insecurities, worries and concerns. Whilst he loves his family, he at times wishes it was just him as his needs are often put after the greater demands of the younger two. It was a timely reminder of how important it is to invest time in all our kids, and how their slipping behaviour might just be a cry out for attention. If we don’t listen to our kids about the little things in life, then we can’t expect them to tell us about the big things later in life. So before you tuck your kids into bed, just ask them, how are you?

First Holy Communion
On Sunday the Year Four students, who will be making their first Holy Communion on the 31st July, attended their Commitment Mass. I would like to acknowledge the efforts made by parents, in partnership with the school and parish, in committing to this Sacrament as it involves a lot of organisation and preparation. I must also say a special thank you to Miss Emily Roche and Fr Mariusz for their continued commitment to our students, thank you!

Alan Gotti Visit
This week we have been visited by Alan Gotti, a Religious Education consultant from Catholic Education Western Australia. He visited classes and spent time with teachers helping to ensure that all staff are up to date with their current studies in Religious Education and that the Catholic message permeates through everything we do at St Mary’s.

Parent Communication
At St Mary’s we value the partnership between parents and teachers. With the help of SEQTA, Skoolbag App and Class Dojo, teachers are able to keep parents up to date with their child’s performance both academically and behaviourally. Should you require a more formal meeting, please do not hesitate to contact the office and make a time to meet with your child’s class teacher. If this is not possible, please make a time to see me.

Birthday Cakes
If your child is fortunate enough to have their birthday fall on a school day and you feel the need to make them a cake, could you please ensure that minimal food colouring is used as many of our students react to food colouring. Also, cupcakes are a lot easier for teachers to distribute than having to cut up and hand out slices of cake. Thank you for your consideration.

Until next time….

Kind regards

Andrew Gammon
Head of Primary School

Parish News
Parish Priest : Fr Mariusz
Phone: 99411768

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

Father Mariusz is inviting any parents and/or their children who would like to be Baptised in the Catholic Church to contact him on 99411768 at the Presbytery.
"You and Me"
PLAYGROUP

FRIDAYS 9:30AM-12:00PM

Who: For Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families with children 0-4 years old.
Where: 9 Butcher Street (In the playgroup building)
When: Starts, Friday 27th May 2016

FREE

For more Information please contact Rebecca on 0438949394 or faithfull.rebecca@cathednet.wa.edu.au

Reading, Painting, Singing, Craft, Dancing and Much More!

Come and join in the FUN!
School Dental Clinic
The School Dental Clinic provides a free and continuing dental service for each eligible enrolled school child. Children are eligible from Pre-primary until Year 11. High school students up to year 11 are still eligible for dental treatment at the School Dental Clinic. For more information please contact Carnarvon Dental Therapy Centre 9941 1336.

If you have received an enrolment form from the Dental Clinic, please complete it and return it to the school as soon as possible. If you have not received any correspondence from us in the past 2 years and you are concerned, please contact Dental Therapy Centre on 9941 1336 or CarnarvonDTC@dental.health.wa.gov.au

If you moved recently, please advise the Dental Clinic Staff about your new address.

The clinic is open for about 4 weeks each term. **Next visit will be 09.08.2016 - 07.09.2016**

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**Book club**
**is due**
**Friday**
**10th June.**

I ♥ Book Club