Dear Parents & Friends of Holy Family,

With the start of May, we have begun a month dedicated to Mary and indeed all mothers, culminating this week with the celebration of Mothers’ Day.

When Mary was asked to be the mother of Jesus, it was a great journey of her faith and indeed like all new mothers, one of adventure! Each of us that has been blessed to be a mother knows the commitment to faith and to learning that we embark upon with our children. Being a mother is the most selfless of gifts.

Jesus was guided by His mother. He became the most significant role model ever known to our world. The influence of Mary on all generations, through her son, is immeasurable. Like all mothers, she may never have dreamt of how her model, guide and advice would live on through the ages. There is always a little bit of every mother still alive through her children, grandchildren and down through the ages.

As parents you have chosen to educate your children in our Catholic faith. You have a wish that they will come to know Jesus through the words, actions and experiences of our school community. Through this we recognise Mary alive in our school and in each of us. We pray that our school may guide each child so that they may take their place in our world as role models for Jesus and for Mary.

May I take this opportunity to pray for God’s blessings upon all mothers of our Holy Family community and to give thanks for the beautiful children we have been gifted with by God. Please join us on Friday for our celebrations in honour of mothers.

Yours in family,

Mrs. Sue Guilfoyle
Principal
Scripture Reflection

John 10:10 is a very famous quote from this gospel passage: ‘I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.’ But in this Sunday’s Gospel what does Jesus mean by a life to the full. Does it mean having all the luxuries that we can dream of or a life of love dedicated to improving the lives of others.

Mother’s Day

We welcome all Mums, Grandmums and other significant women in the lives of our children to our Mother’s Day Liturgy and Morning Tea this Friday. We also thank all those who are unable to join us Friday for all they do for the little ones in their care. We also pray for the souls of our dear ones that can no longer be with us.

Project Compassion

If you still have any Project Compassion boxes at home, they can be dropped into the School Office or the Church. On behalf of Caritas, thank you for all your generosity.

Stephen Bawden
Religious Education Co-ordinator

Mother’s Day 2014

Mother’s Day Stall: This year we will be having a Mother’s Day Stall. The stall will take place on Thursday, 8th May and the gifts will be priced at $2 and $5. There are lots of beautiful gifts to choose from. Siblings will have an opportunity to visit the stall at the same time so they can choose different gifts for their mum. We look forward to making our mum or that special woman in our life feel loved on Mother’s Day. Dad – make sure you have given your children some money next Thursday!

Mothers’ & Grandmothers’ Prayer: On Friday 9th May at 9:10am we will be gathering for our annual Mothers’ & Grandmothers’ Day prayer. As Fr Clifford is on leave, we will be sharing a prayer liturgy instead of Mass. Our gathering will be in the school hall and will be followed by a special morning tea for our mothers and grandmothers. Please join us for this special time of prayer filled thanks.

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.
Learning Matters from the Assistant Principal

The teachers at Holy Family make a difference in the lives of your children every day. Sometimes in small ways, sometimes bigger ways. Sometimes they make a difference in ways that are worth sharing with others outside our school.

Next Friday, Miss Bainy, Miss Sargent and I will be presenting some of our great work at a conference in Melbourne. The **Excellence in Professional Practice Conference** brings together teachers and leaders from all around the Australia and the world.

There will be presenters from as far away as Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and many places around Australia. Among these excellent educators, YOUR Kindergarten teachers will be the only presenters from NSW Catholic schools, an outstanding achievement for HFS. What’s more, we have TWO workshops to present, and there will be an article about us in a new teacher magazine!

One of our presentations is about the Orientation and ‘Jump Up’ to Kindergarten program that welcomed this year’s Kindy students into the community and set them up for success from the beginning.

Our other presentation is about the way we use assessment data to pinpoint the language needs of Kindy students and get children the help they need in language development as soon as possible.

I feel very proud that the work we do here at HFS has been recognised in this way. It is the dedication of our teachers and the leadership of Mrs Guilfoyle and the team that have made it possible. I hope we will come home from the conference with even more ideas about how to make HFS an even better place to live, love and learn.

*Mrs Benjamin Munday*
*Assistant Principal*

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Learning at Holy Family

**Knitting With Love in Year Four**

Throughout this term, Year Four will be knitting for the Sydney charity, Wrap with Love. This Charity provides blankets for the homeless and less fortunate in both Australia and throughout the World.

We would gratefully accept any donations of preferably 8ply wool and Size 8 (4mm) knitting needles that you or your family members may have.

We look forward to supporting this local charity while also learning a very important skill.

*Yours thankfully,*
*Mrs Tredinnick and Mr West*

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Library News

**CONGRATULATIONS to Year 6**

The winners of the coveted “**Best Class in the Library**” Trophy for Term 1, 2014.

Year 6 won the trophy for working well in the library, listening to each other, completing tasks on time, focussing on their learning and helping to look after the equipment and books in the library. Year 6 get to keep and display the trophy for Term 2 and have exclusive access to the library during lunchtime in the even weeks of that term (eg weeks 2, 4…)

*Well done year 6!*

**Premier’s Reading Challenge**: Well done to all those children who have been reading for this challenge. A special congratulations to Years 5 and 6 who have every child participating. Keep up the good work!

**Scholastic Book Club**: Orders due 16th May 2014. Could you please use the order form provided and make sure your child’s name and class is written on the form. Cut outs of the book and no name will not be accepted.

*Mrs Fiona Ardus*
*Librarian*
**Calendar**

**May**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 8th May</td>
<td>Mothers’ Day Stall for children to buy gifts.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 9th May</td>
<td>9.10am Mothers &amp; Grandmothers’ Liturgy of the Word (Hall) Morning</td>
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<td>Tea for Mothers &amp; Grandmothers’. Parents invited.</td>
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<td>Monday 12th May</td>
<td>Change to Winter Uniform</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13th May -</td>
<td>National Assessment Program Literacy &amp; Numeracy (NAPLAN) Tests</td>
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<td>Thursday 15th May</td>
<td>Year 3 &amp; Year 5</td>
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**Birthday Celebrations!**

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week: Georgia Hannouch, Timmy Vu, Gabriel Rahme, Vernessa Yi and Gabriel Nakhoul.

**Community News**

**Internet safety presentation helps children stay safe online**

Young people today are immersed in digital technologies. They use the internet and mobile phones to socialise, study, exchange ideas and play. While online activity has many benefits, there are also risks.

To help your children stay safe online, St Oliver’s Harris Park is hosting a **Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation**. Designed for parents, this presentation is provided by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) as part of a national program of cybersmart initiatives.

The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation is thorough and non-technical. It covers a range of issues including:

- the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, identity theft, inappropriate contact and exposure to inappropriate content
- tips to help children stay safe online

The presentation is conducted by an ACMA Cybersmart trainer and is free of charge.

The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation will be held on:

**Wednesday, 21 May from 6.30pm at St Oliver’s Primary, 33 Wigram Street, Harris Park. Please note limited parking is available in the school grounds.**

To register your attendance, please contact Anna Small at St. Oliver’s Harris Park on 9682 1244 or via email

StOlivers@parra.catholic.edu.au

**SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE SEPARATED OR DIVORCED**

The Solo Parent Ministry is now taking registrations for their next Post-Separation Recovery Program (commencing on May 14th) This is an excellent 7 week Program to assist you work through many of the issues that you face as you negotiate your way through the loss, pain and challenges following the break-down of your marriage relationship. It will be held at Blacktown from 7.30pm – 9.45pm for 7 consecutive Wednesdays. Cost $80.00. For further details and registration contact soloparentministry@ccss.org.au or Ph. 99330205

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.