Dear Parents of Holy Family,

This weekend we celebrate the First Sunday of Advent, and in doing so we move into a new liturgical year. We give thanks for the blessings of the year just gone and begin with the joy of waiting and preparing for the coming of the Christ child.

Advent is preparation time for the coming of Christ at Christmas, when we are invited to accept Christ, not only into the world, but into our personal lives. Too often our preparations are tied up getting the decorations ready, the presents, the food, the family’s social calendar. This year let us look at this in another way:

**Decorations** – let us decorate ourselves with thoughts for those around us; what can I decorate another’s life with? What colour and light can I bring to others?

**Presents** - let us be present to those around us. Can we give someone the gift of our presence- sometime doing something for them, or just taking time to talk rather than rushing off to buy something else?

**Food** - have we prepared ourselves for the life giving eternal food of receiving Christ in the Eucharist this Christmas? This food has the cheapest cost we will expend – but the greatest nourishment!

**Social Calendar** - in amongst the family dinners and parties have we set aside time to party with Christ? Will we be attending Mass each Sunday of Advent to get ready for Christmas?

Journeying with Christ is a life-long journey that leads to joy and peace. And so, in these four weeks of Advent let us take this journey with Christ first, and worry about the consumerism second.

Yours in family,

Mrs Sue Guilfoyle
Principal

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.
Year 2 RE MATTERS

In Year 2, we have been learning about the season of Advent. Advent is a time of preparation, excitement, hope and joy.

We have shared experiences of waiting for others and for special events in our lives. We have looked closely at the stories in the Bible that recount the birth of Jesus and how many people prepared and waited for His birth.

We have also decorated our classroom with the wreaths we created and other Christmas symbols.

We congratulate this week’s Student of the Week Award recipients:

Rylan Roebeck  Sukkum Limbu
Montell Kumar  Madison Saouma
Andrew Elias  Dylan Lu
Joshua Koroma  Rizul Wagle
Amy Vu  Ben Kizana
Milad Daher  Michelle Lin
Ryan Nakhoul  Julie Hoang

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.
I’d like to share some examples of small things that make our Holy Family community great.

* * * *

The morning after our celebration of First Holy Communion, one of the beautiful grandparents from our community came into the office.

Since the school playground was being used as a car park on the big day, he had parked inside. Somehow, he had accidentally clipped one of the plant pots on the way in or out and smashed part of it.

There was no one in the office on Sunday to tell, so he made sure that he came in first thing Monday morning to tell the story and offer to replace the pot.

I thought to myself: what a fine example to his family and the community this man is. The problem was a small one but he went out of his way to make it right. A true elder, worthy of our respect.

* * * *

I made a phone call to a parent of a boy who came to school one morning with an inappropriate haircut.

She apologised and said that it would be fixed as soon as possible.

The next day, the boy came in to school and….his hair was fixed. Wow.

I thought to myself: that mum has shown her children the way to graciously handle this kind of situation. What a great example to her family and the community.

A small number of parents have expressed their disagreement with certain aspects of the school’s uniform policy that they agreed to follow when they enrolled their children at HFS. Issues include coloured joggers and extreme haircuts for boys.

Parents, here is the solution:

Join the Parent Representative Group in 2015 and advocate for change!

If you have an issue that is dear to your heart, get involved and show your children how responsible citizens work for social change.

Mr. Benjamin Munday
Assistant Principal

Annual Parent Survey

Please find attached to this newsletter our annual parent survey. Each year we ask families to share with us their opinions on how our school is meeting the needs of the community. We use this information to plan future directions and programs so please assist us with completing the survey. Every family that returns the survey has a chance to win one child’s resource fee paid for 2015—a saving of $130!

In Christ we Live, Love and Learn.
### November

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 26th November</td>
<td>Swimming Program Concludes.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 27th November</td>
<td>9:15am Parish Mass—Kinder &amp; Year 6 to attend.</td>
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**Birthday Wishes!**

Congratulations to the following students who celebrate their birthday this week: Najweh Katrib, Brayden Vu, Montell Kumar, Shantel Owusu, Duong Mawien, Ivana Nehme, Charbel Nehme, Angelina El Katrib, Christina Awad and Sindy Fosita.

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**Community News**

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**An invitation from the Good Sams**

Is there something *More* to life? The Sisters of the Good Samaritan – the Good Sams – extend an invitation to young women to join them for a weekend of prayer, reflection and conversation. Experience the Good Sam story and explore the *More* to life for you. Does God make a difference? YES for Good Samaritan Sisters.

**Dates:** Friday 28 November 6pm to Sunday 30 November 5pm.

**Venue:** Mount St Benedict Centre, Pennant Hills Rd, Pennant Hills.

**Further information:** [www.goodsams.org.au](http://www.goodsams.org.au)

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**menALIVE Afternoon Event for Fathers on 29 November**

This is a ‘must attend’ event for all fathers. Topic: ‘The critical importance of Fathering’. Speakers: Robert Falzon, founder of menALIVE and co-author of the book *The Father Factor*; and Ben Smith, Director of the Family & Life Office, Diocese of Parramatta. Program includes: discussion on the importance of the role of fathers and grandfathers + practical insights and information on intentional fathering. Concludes with the launch of *The Father Factor* by Peter O’Shea and Robert Falzon.

**Date:** Saturday 29 November, from 1.30pm-4pm.

**Where:** St Patrick’s Cathedral Hall, 1 Marist Place, Parramatta.

**For more information and RSVP:** Ben Smith (02) 8838 3440, bsmith@parra.catholic.org.au

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**Advent and Christmas books, cards, CDs, DVDs & gifts**

St Pauls Books & Gifts Centre in Parramatta publishes religious books, CDs and DVDs for adults, teenagers and children in the following areas: Bibles and biblical studies, liturgy and liturgical resources, parish bulletins, theology, spirituality, Australian Church, ecumenism, prayer, devotions, Vatican documents, educational resources for schools and parishes. Visit St Pauls for all your Advent and Christmas books, cards, CDs, DVDs & gifts.

**Where:** St Pauls Books & Gifts Centre, 238 Church St, Parramatta.

**Mass:** Mass from 1pm-1.30pm, Monday to Friday, in the Mary MacKillop Chapel above the Centre.

**Contact:** tel (02) 9126 8912, bookcentreparra@stpauls.com.au Order online: [www.stpauls.com.au](http://www.stpauls.com.au)