Message from the Principal

Today is Holy Thursday, the day when Jesus gathered his friends together and shared his last meal with his closest friends. Jesus knew that he would be crucified and rather than run away he chose to face his accusers even though, he must have known in his heart, that he would not receive a fair trial.

He asked his followers to remember him when they broke bread and shared wine.

Please read the reflection on today’s newsletter and take your children to the Easter Sunday Mass at either South West Rocks at 7:30 am or Kempsey at 9:30 am.

I would like to thank all those people who have supported me during my first term as Principal. It has not been easy but I have enjoyed it immensely.

Some changes have been made but most of my time has been spent planning the future of St Joseph’s. One change that is in the early stages is the parking, drop off zone and bus zone. I have spoken to the council representatives and they agree the signage is confusing.

They are to draw up a plan that may include refuge islands and limiting the parking in sections on the far side of the road to allow short term parking so that people can more easily visit the office.

This plan will also include our flashing 40kph school signs.

We also would like to say farewell to Teacher Assistant Mr Alister Lardner who leaves us today for a new work commitment in Sydney. Thank you for your hard work and commitment during your time here at St Joseph’s and we wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

Tom Critchley

Winners of the Easter Egg Raffle
1st William Nixon 1S
2nd Tahni Riordan KR
3rd Jorja Barnett 3M
4th Jorja Barnett 3M
5th Sam Sutherland KH
6th Lilly Smith 4C
Guessing Competition winner was Genevieve Paix of 2D
Congratulations to all our winners and thank you all for supporting this P & F fundraiser. A total of $860 was raised.

Thank you to the Preston family for generously donating $300 worth of Clever Patch Art Supplies to our school. Mr Preston won the art supplies whilst attending the Youth Leaders Conference in Sydney last month.
Cross Country
Bowraville
Due to inclement weather, on Wednesday the Zone Cross Country at Bowraville was postponed. The new date will be Wednesday, 22nd April. (Term 2, Week 1)

Parents and Caregivers Library
Our School Library has a variety of books available to Parents and Caregivers. Titles like “Thriving at School” by Dr John Irvine, “Working Parents” by Michael Grose, “Amazing Grace for Families” by Matthew Pinto and Patti Armstrong, “A Parent’s Treasure Chest” by Constance Jenkin and Anne McGenniss, are available alongside “Tasmania—Island of Tranquility” by Owen Hughes and “Australia Through Time”. Please feel free to look through the books on display in the schools foyer and if you would like to borrow a book, fill in the clip board that is with the books.

Mass Times

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<tr>
<th>3rd April</th>
<th>Good Friday</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 10.00am</td>
<td>Kempsey &amp; South West Rocks</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.00pm</td>
<td>Kempsey &amp; South West Rocks</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stations of the Cross</td>
<td>Celebration of the Lord’s Passion</td>
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<tr>
<th>4th April</th>
<th>Easter Vigil</th>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 6.00pm</td>
<td>Kempsey</td>
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<tr>
<td>This night is one of vigil for the Lord.</td>
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<tr>
<th>5th April</th>
<th>Easter Sunday</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 7.30am</td>
<td>South West Rocks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.30am</td>
<td>Kempsey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Celebration!</td>
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SHOW TIME!!
KEMPSEY SHOW
14th & 15th April Gates open 6am.

Featuring ~ Side Show Alley, Fireworks, Ring Events, Derby, Trotts, Dog Jumping, Pavillion, Showgirls, Kempsey Macleay Off Road Club, Kempsey Sporting Car Club, mechanical Bull Monster Trucks, Flame Car and much more!

Change over to Winter Uniform
Over the first two weeks of Term 2, depending on the weather, students may start to wear their winter uniform. All children are expected to be wearing their winter uniform by Monday, 4th May.

At St Joseph’s we sell school jumpers for $30.00 ea (full zip & half zip). School Hats for $15.00 ea and Sport Socks $7.00 ea.

The Uniform Shop and Abbey Video stock our school uniform.

Congratulations to Adam Grant who competed in the PSSA Swimming in Sydney. Adam finished 5th in 50m Butterfly, 10th in 50m Freestyle, 8th in 50m Backstroke and 14th in 50m Breaststroke. Well Done!!

SOME OF THE PROUD KH STUDENTS WITH THEIR SHOW ENTRIES
Term 2 Week 1 Roster

MONDAY  Linda Pogson
TUESDAY  Mary Dowling
WEDNESDAY  Lisa Collin
THURSDAY  Sheena Clarke
FRIDAY  Kerri Sheridan

KEMPSEY JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE

Does your child turn 9 or 10 this year? Kempsey Junior Rugby League need a few more players to make up the rest of the Under 10 team. For more information please call James after work on 0428 778 879.

ATTENTION SPELLING CHAMPIONS

An exciting opportunity from the makers of Master Chef, Junior Master Chef and The Voice. They are looking for the nations brightest spellers to take part in a spectacular spelling and language competition to be broadcast on national television.

Visit the following https://wordplay.castasugar.com

Be quick – applications close on April 17th, 2015!

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

Calling all students, teachers and parents at St Joseph’s who want to be a STAR. Coastline Credit Union is searching the entire mid north coast to find the most interesting and talented people. Coastline is giving this unique opportunity because they are looking for children, teens and adults and seniors to star in their next television advertising campaign this year.

If you would like to be a STAR visit: http://coastline.com.au/website-campaigns-2015-do-you-want—
Dear Parents and Caregivers,

No matter how old you are, there is always a sense of wonder and fascination, when you come across a cicada shell still clinging to the bark on a tree. It looked dead but somehow you knew, that in some mysterious way, it was alive; the neat split down its back, was from where the living creature inside had escaped and taken flight. You couldn’t actually see it anywhere but at some point you would hear it singing away in some tree.

The cicada shell is a good analogy for the empty tomb that was found by the women then Peter and John on Easter Sunday. The resurrected, living Jesus, who had once been inside it, was gone. He was out amongst the living to whom he appeared several times. Every time he came to his friends, they became stronger, wiser, kinder, more daring. Every time he came to them, they became more like him.

Now that Jesus was raised from the dead, the Apostles and disciples, his followers, were commissioned to give witness to his death and resurrection. After the coming of the Holy Spirit, they fearlessly preached what, previously, they had not understood. We see this clearly in the transformation of Peter, who went from misunderstanding the scriptures to interpreting them through the lens of the resurrection. We see it in Paul, who had set out to put Christians to death, only to become the champion of the fledgling church.

By rising from the dead, Jesus shattered the hold that death had over all of us. Death could not keep him down and, if we are joined to him, neither can it keep us down for we are “Easter People”, full of the new life of Jesus. This is why Christian faith does not rest on the death of Jesus and an empty tomb but on the continuing experience of the risen Jesus.

We Christians today are summoned to live, proclaim and celebrate Jesus’ victory over death by resisting all those forms of death and violence that saturate our society and not only unjustly take the lives of innocent people, but can desensitise our spirit and damage our belief in freedom and justice for all.

The Resurrection announced that human values cannot be extinguished by violence or death; no one can be forgotten. Here and now, God holds onto the lives of all the departed including the lives that have been wasted, violently cut short, damaged by oppression. All have worth in God’s sight.

There are constant hints of resurrection in our daily lives, foretastes of our ultimate resurrection. These are found daily in our downs and ups, our sorrows and joys, our worries and relief, our disappointments and successes. Easter Sunday offers an opportunity to celebrate all our small, personal “resurrections” and unite them with Jesus’ Resurrection. It offers us renewal to be people of faith, hope and love in our home and in our community.

“Lord, we ask this Easter to become more like you. Help us to develop an inner strength that is capable of handling life’s situations. Help us to provide a place in our heart where you reside. Amen.”

Peace and Best wishes

Tom Critchley