Prayer
During Advent, the four weeks before Christmas, we think about all the people in the Bible, who waited for hundreds of years for Jesus to come on earth.

We think about Mary and Joseph, going to Bethlehem, to register in their home town, and then waiting for Jesus to be born.

Help us, God, in this time of Advent bless our eyes and ears, that we may see and hear Jesus. Amen

An Attitude of Gratitude
Cicero, a Roman philosopher born over a hundred years before Jesus, is credited with saying ‘Gratitude is not only the greatest of all virtues, but the parent of others’. In the United States, Thanksgiving is a national holiday celebrated on the fourth Thursday in November. It is not something we celebrate in Australia, but the idea of giving thanks for our many blessings is a lovely one. Adopting an attitude of gratitude encourages us to reflect on the many things we have to be thankful for and this can have positive effects on our self-esteem and our health and wellbeing.

Thankfulness is a prominent theme in the Scriptures and we have many reasons to be thankful for God’s goodness. 1Thessalonians 5: 16-18 says ‘Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances’. In the Year 7 Liturgy of Celebration on Tuesday evening, students gave thanks for all that they have experienced in their lives at St Joseph’s this year. In the opening prayer, Wilson McShane and Indiah Kelsey asked that ‘we may be filled with gratitude and a strong determination to make the most of our opportunities’. Students led us in prayers that expressed heartfelt thanks for friendships, the love and support of family and the care and dedication of teachers. It was a beautiful liturgy and I sincerely thank Fr Steve and everyone who contributed to making the evening such a special occasion.

Count Our Blessings
There have been many opportunities this week to celebrate the skills and talents of students, and thank parents and teachers for what has been an incredibly busy, but rewarding year. I hope that in the few days remaining of this term, we might all take a moment to count our blessings and give thanks for the wonderful gift of your children, the vocation of teaching and the joy of this community.

Celebrating Year 12s
With final examinations now behind the Year 12s, we look forward to a final celebration of their achievements at the Graduation evening at the Nautilus Theatre on Saturday evening, followed by a celebration at the Lincoln Hotel. This is a great opportunity for students, families and staff to gather together and congratulate our Year 12 graduates on completing their schooling at St Joseph’s. I am sure that it will be a happy occasion of thanksgiving, where the stresses of the last few weeks are forgotten. You will be familiar with the expression and sentiment that when one door closes, another opens. On behalf of all the staff I wish our graduates every success as new doors open and opportunities beckon, but the door of St Joseph’s will never be closed to you as we hold you in our hearts and prayers and look forward to seeing you again and hearing of future successes.

Dr Sandra Hewson - PRINCIPAL

COMING EVENTS
Friday, 27th November
• F-12 End of Year Liturgy @ 10.00am in the Gymnasium
• 6 - 12 Award Ceremony @ 11.30am for a 11.45am start
• Year 10 - 12 Final Day

Saturday, 28th November
• Year 12 Graduation

Monday, 30th November
• Year 11 Transition Trip to Adelaide

Wednesday, 2nd December
• Christmas Evening @ 5.30pm

Friday, 4th December
• F - 9 Final Day - Normal dismissal time

Monday, 1st February
• 2016 school year commences for ALL students

We are desperately requiring parental assistance for the Christmas Evening on Wednesday, 2nd December.

If you can cook a BBQ or are happy to serve tea/drinks, please contact the front office as soon as possible, or email maree@sjspl.catholic.edu.au

We would love your assistance and expertise!

Thank you to the people who have offered to assist on the night - we will be in contact soon!
F-12 End of Year Liturgy & Award Ceremony
TOMORROW

Tomorrow, we have the chance to celebrate all of the wonderful opportunities we have received to ‘live life in all its fullness’ this year, according to our school theme. We have much to be thankful to God for, and this gratitude will be expressed at our End of Year Liturgy in the Gymnasium at 10am. The traditional ‘Farewell Ceremony’ to our Year 12 students by their Foundation buddies will also take place at this special ceremony.

After the Liturgy there will be a break for recess and then Years 6 - 12 students will gather again in the Gymnasium for the Award Ceremony at 11.30 for a 11.45 start.

Advent

The liturgical season of Advent starts this Sunday, November 29th. This is a special time of waiting and preparing ourselves for the coming of Christ at Christmas time. It is a chance for families to reflect on themselves and their lives and to prepare themselves for this special time. F-6 classes have been celebrating this special time with a prayer service each Monday in the Church.

Vinnies Christmas Appeal

Thank You

A huge THANK YOU to all of our families for their generous support of the Vinnies Christmas Appeal this year. An overwhelming amount of Christmas goodies were passed on to our local Vinnies to be distributed to those in need in our local community. Thank you everyone!

Around School

Yesterday, new Primary students for 2016 were welcomed into classrooms and experienced a day at St Joseph’s. It was exciting for them and for current students to meet each other and begin to form new friendships, looking ahead to next year. Teachers are currently finalising reports and future class allocations. These will be sent home next Thursday and class groups for 2016 will have an opportunity to spend a lesson together on Friday. We trust you will support your child at this time of change and growth in preparation for a new school year.

Christmas preparations are in full swing in classrooms. In Religious Education lessons, students are learning about Advent and, in Music, they are practising for next week’s Christmas Evening. They are also having fun preparing decorations, food, cards, gifts and participating in Christmas plays.
Fire Safety
On Tuesday, Therese Pedler conducted bushfire safety sessions for all bus students. With the help of our Tumby Bay bus driver and Chris from CFS, Therese taught the children about how to respond in an emergency situation and practised what to do by simulating a potential real life situation by using a smoke machine. This was interesting and useful knowledge for the students and adults and we thank Therese for her input.

QuickSmart Maths
Year 6 students who have been involved in the QuickSmart program this year concluded their learning with a celebration on Tuesday. Congratulations to:
- Zac Kenny,
- Lachy Green,
- Tui Huntley,
- Kali Walker,
- Cate Rudland,
- Jade Kolpondinos,
- Sharlee D’Agostini,
- Shanala Mesecke,
- Sinead Schubert,
- Sara Vitlov,
- Arley Byass,
- Tom Cormack
- and Jasper Freeman
for their efforts and achievements.
Thank you very much to their tutors Paul Hodgson, Annie Varney and Amanda Coote, for facilitating this program.

Have you lost something?
Please come in and check the lost property box in the Front Office as items will be donated to St Vinnies at the end of the Term.

Photo Consent Form
Have you returned your Photo consent form yet? This 2016 consent form was recently handed out to the youngest person in the family. It is a requirement by Catholic Education that this form is signed and returned to the school EVERY year. This forms need to be returned to the Front Office as soon as possible in readiness for the start of the 2016 school year.

A replacement form can be accessed via our website and emailed through to mareee@sjspl.catholic.edu.au, or you are welcome to collect a new form if necessary, from the Front Office.

Farewell
We wish all the best to Jayden (Year 6) and Jaymee-Lee (Year 1) Boothey, who left St Joseph’s last week. Their family is relocating to Darwin.

SAPSASA Tennis
Five of our students recently represented the Lower Eyre Peninsula at the SAPSASA Tennis Championships which were held early November at Seacliff Tennis Courts. The team performed extremely well, winning 6 of their 8 matches, ending up equal runners up out of 9 teams.

Congratulations to the following students -
- Meaza Otto,
- Arley Byass,
- M’Hiret Otto,
- Victoria Henderson
and Abbey Bates

Remember Mary?
Mary, the School lamb from Miss Deer’s class last year came back to school on Wednesday with two of her friends, to be shorn in front of an enthusiastic crowd of students. Everyone was very excited to see Mary and couldn’t believe how big she had grown.

Mrs Baldwin’s husband Kurt, showed off his shearing skills and gave Mary and her friends a much needed haircut.
Students at the Heart of Curriculum

As a leader of teaching and learning I am very passionate about curriculum development and innovation. I am equally as passionate and committed to ensuring that students’ needs and interests drive our curriculum. This term this has been reflected in some rather late changes to our subject selection process and how we structure our lines. Students in Years 9, 10 and 11 have been asked to re-select subjects based on what they would really like to study rather than on pre-set subject lines.

Feedback suggests that this has produced some positive outcomes for students who are happier with their choices and looking forward to next year’s studies. The construction of a timetable is a complicated business, but 95% achievement of student requests is an exceptionally good result.

As we move into next year, we will be working with staff, students and the community on a full curriculum review, keeping students very much at the heart of our teaching and learning.

Language Program in 2016

You will be aware that we advertised for a Japanese teacher last term, and needed to re-advertise this term without success. There will be some changes to the Languages Program next year to work within our staffing capability. F-S classes will have an Asian Studies focus, building contextual and cultural understanding prior to learning Japanese from Year 6. This will be evaluated in the course of next year as part of a whole curriculum review.

From 2016, Japanese will be an elective in Year 9, in line with the intentions of the Australian Curriculum. Students not taking Japanese will be engaged in the ApPLe Program, based on the Personal Project in the Middle Years International Baccalaureate – Applied Personal Learning, which will develop excellent skills for senior study and the Research Project, and would complement the Rite Journey Program. There has been great interest from students in having opportunity within the curriculum to pursue their own directed learning, and already there are some great ideas for projects being discussed.

This time next year we will have an evening for students to share their learning outcomes from ApPLe.

Dr Sandra Hewson - PRINCIPAL

Have you put in your booklist for 2016?

Liverpool Street Newsagency is again organising stationery needs for our students via a secure online ordering system. This quick and easy online ordering system will help streamline the ordering process for families.

All stationery ordering details including instructions for logging in, payment and collection/delivery can be accessed through this website – https://www.salessoftwareonline.com.au

There was a delay with the secure online payment system, however, this has now been resolved. Whilst you do not need to pay for your child/ren’s books now, the online payment is available if you are having them delivered. Alternately, you can pay upon collection on 27th / 28th January next year.

Please note that stationery orders are required to be completed online or by Friday 4th December 2015 to enable them sufficient time to process orders.

If you have any concerns or problems, please contact Liverpool Street Newsagency on 8682 1658.

Thank you

Japanese Word of the Week

たまご
Tamago = Eggs

A big thank you to all the Canteen volunteers this year. We couldn’t do it without you!
Wishing everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Thank you!
Parent Surveys - last chance to win hamper
Thank you to the parents who have already completed the MindMatters or KidsMatter parent survey to help provide data and direction for our 2016 wellbeing work. Don't forget to return your reply slip once you have taken the survey. These slips will be entered in to a lucky draw for a Christmas hamper.

Year 6 - 12: http://www.mindmatters.edu.au/surveys/survey-start?id=parent-family-survey---142-da3aebe25be44e25941a

Once completed, return the tear off slip from the letter sent home which will enter you into the draw to win a Christmas Hamper which will be drawn at the School Christmas Evening.

Have Your Say!

The South Australian government wants to hear your ideas about how early childhood education and support for families could be improved.

Educating and caring for children from a young age, we know that investing in the early years is vital to give every child the best possible chance in life.

Research shows that access to services such as preschool can reduce the effect of disadvantage, giving children a better start to school, creating benefits that continue into adulthood. It also tells us that it is more effective to support children’s development during these early years than it is to try to ‘fix’ problems when they are older.

Share your views and ideas on topics about before and after preschool care, services for disadvantaged children, and greater flexibility and choice for families when accessing preschool.

Have your say by visiting the YourSAy online consultation until 4 December 2015 and go into the running to win one of three prizes.” http://yoursay.sa.gov.au/decisions/yoursay-engage-early-childhood-services-for-families/about

Sherpa Kids
Endings are Part of the Rhythm of Life
All our lives are marked by beginnings and endings. In our School Community we are celebrating some significant endings this week.

On Monday afternoon our St Joseph’s Boarding School Community gathered for the final Mass in the present Boarding House. It was a poignant moment as we recalled the hundreds of Josephite Sisters and Boarders for whom the Boarding House and Convent had been ‘home’ for decades. Their contribution to life, love and learning at St Joseph’s School has been immense; their legacy rich and enduring.

On Friday our School Family will honour and farewell our Year 12 graduants. This will be followed by their formal Graduation Ceremony the following evening. Their years of formal schooling will end. Their journey as Disciples of Christ will continue.

As they end thirteen years of schooling their parents, teachers and Jesus Christ are now handing the baton to them. Their responsibility is great. Our expectations of them are high. They are being invited to keep the flame of light, faith and love burning brightly in their lives and radiating its beams far and wide. They are being called to be a light ... radiating the light of Christ to their peers, to the young and the old, the rich and the poor, the indigenous and the migrant, the frail and the lonely, the players, the spectators and even the umpires.

This week too our Church year comes to an end. It is a time to examine how faithful we have been over the past year. If we have failed, we can resolve in specific ways to be strong for Christ and His Church in the coming year.

Might I record my gratitude to everyone who has been part of the rich story and grace-filled journey of St Joseph’s School in 2015.

As we enter again into the holy season of Advent we entrust our troubled and traumatized world to the prayerful intercession of Our Lady, Queen of Peace. May you and your family be richly embraced by Christ’s love and grace this Christmas and always.

You are most welcome to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord at our Christmas Masses:

**Christmas Eve (24th December):**
- 6.00p.m. Family Mass
- 9.00p.m. Coffin Bay Mass

**Christmas Day (25th December):**
- Midnight Mass
- 9.00a.m.

Advent Reconciliation Liturgies will be celebrated on:
- Monday 7th December: 4.00p.m.
- Tuesday 22nd December: 7.30p.m. (Followed by a Program of Christmas Carols)

**Fr Steve Ardill - PARISH PRIEST**

**Christmas Eve Children’s Mass**
Our Parish is inviting our young parishioners (aged 5 - 13) to actively participate in our Christmas Eve Family Mass. We need musicians and singers, altar servers, readers, people to act out the Gospel story of the Birth of Jesus, others to come dressed as angels and shepherds.

A practice will be held in the Church on Wednesday, 23rd December at 10.00am.

If you would like to participate please ask mum or dad to contact the Parish Office on 8682 3725 or phone or text Helen Marks on 0419 822 897. All welcome.

**Community News**

**Please Save Your Christmas Stamps!**
If anyone is receiving Christmas mail, we would love you to save the stamps for the Josephite Sisters working in Peru. Please save them and bring them into the School Office either before the end of the school year, or at the start of the 2016 school year. Something so little can make a huge difference to others. Thank you.

**VACSWIM 2016**
VACSWIM will be held at the Port Lincoln Pool and Port Lincoln Foreshore Beach from Monday, 4th January - Tuesday, 12th January 2016 (Excluding Weekend). To register, go online to vacswimsa.com.au before 5.00pm Friday, 18th December or come on down to the onsite enrolment day on Saturday, 2nd January 10am-2pm at the Port Lincoln Pool.

Don't miss out on booking a place - register now as classes are filling fast. For further information, please contact Sarah Wedding on 0427520821 for further details.
A Message from the Chair of the School Board

Hello, I have been in and about the school and at the end of Term 3 I was able to farewell Mrs Lacey, with a card and gift of a beautiful photo of Port Lincoln on behalf of the School Community. I was able to visit Dr Hewson prior to the formal commencement of Term 4 to welcome her to Port Lincoln and our school. I was also able to attend the Beginning of Term Liturgy and hear her joy and excitement as she had her first opportunity to see all the students and staff gathered in the Church and also to see the formal first duties of our 2015/2016 Senior Student leaders.

At the first School Board meeting for Term 4 we gave Dr Hewson a card with a bunch of fresh flowers and welcomed her, thanking her for taking up the post. We have had two Board meetings with Dr Hewson and she has outlined her impressions, her delights, her plans and ideas for enhancing our children’s education, her support for staff and her plan to be an active Principal in ensuring that our School Community shares and celebrates their love of learning. On that point, may I commend to you Dr Hewson’s proposal for sub-committees of the Board. Please take a few moments to read her points and consider where you feel you could help the School, your children and the staff – I would welcome your support and certainly your participation.

You may then like to reflect on nominating yourself or another parent for the vacancies that will arise early in 2016, for a two year term with the Board – all talents are appreciated and accepted.

Throughout this term I have popped into the Year 12 Art and Design exhibition at the Nautilus Theatre, the Canteen, the End of Year Mass in the Boarding House - which was the final one ever in this building - and the Year 7 End of Year Liturgy in the Church. I look forward to the End of Year whole school Liturgy and Awards presentation and the Year 12 Graduation evening.

There is still a week of school for our Foundation to Year 9 students and staff, as we wish our Senior Secondary students all the very best heading into their summer break and beginning their new journeys with Gap years, study at University or TAFE, working locally and on the Eyre Peninsula and so many blessed and joyous experiences ahead of them.

I wish each and everyone in our St Joseph’s School family and community a happy, holy and safe Christmas season and joyous beginnings for 2016 and specially acknowledge and thank Father Steve Ardill for all his support to the Board, School, staff and families throughout 2015.

Monica Woods - CHAIRPERSON

Can you spare some time and energy to help shape our vision?

New committees in 2016 supporting the St Joseph’s School Board

Many parents would like to contribute something to the life of our school, but cannot make the commitment at the level of being a School Board representative.

In 2016 we would like to establish a number of committees that will inform the School Board and help shape our vision and mission into the future. Committees can meet at times to suit participants, during school hours, after school, in homes, coffee shops or on school premises. The committees will meet twice per term for an hour to an hour and a half, and a committee member (who is a serving member of the School Board) will bring ideas and suggestions to the Board for consideration and approval. If you have some spare time and energy to help shape our work at St Joseph’s, please consider joining a committee next year.

Strategic Planning Committee

This committee supporting the work of the School Board will help to shape the development of a strategic plan for St Joseph’s School over the next three to five years. A major focus in the first year will be the development of a marketing strategy that will foster and celebrate the unique Catholic identity of St Joseph’s School. The committee will explore and develop how St Joseph’s is positioned in the region, and contribute to planning events and initiatives that reflect who we are as a Catholic school in pursuit of excellence.

Finance Committee

This committee will support the School Board in acting as an independent advisory group to review existing and projected revenues and expenditures. The committee will seek avenues for funding through community grants to support the growth of projects, resources and facilities in the school. The finance committee will work with the Business Manager and the Principal to discuss and propose changes to fees, and review and develop policies relevant to business operations to contribute to optimal use and development of the school’s resources. Parents with an understanding of business operations and budgeting are most welcome on this committee.

Community Relations Committee

This committee will look at ways to effectively invite parents and families to have greater involvement in the St Joseph’s School community. This may be through enhancing the Old Scholar’s network, building our volunteer support, and organising and supporting social and community fundraising initiatives, working bees and projects that will enhance the facilities and resources provided for the students and families of St Joseph’s School. This committee will foster a spirit of welcome and hospitality for all in the community, but particularly for new families and those in need of support due to personal circumstances.

Thanks to our School Board members

We extend our sincere thanks to all members of our School Board for giving their time, wisdom and talents to the service of the St Joseph’s community.
St Joe's Community Christmas Evening

Wednesday, 2nd December 2015
from 5.30pm

Join in the Christmas Spirit in your best festive outfit

Bring a picnic, picnic blanket

and

Enjoy the performances

Sausage Sizzle  Drinks  Live Music