Dear Parents/Caregivers

This week is Catholic Education Week. On Monday, both school communities of St Mary’s School Warwick and Assumption College began the week with a combined liturgy. In Fr Franco’s absence, Mr Kort Goodman and I shared the Leader role in the liturgy. My offerings this special occasion was the homily. In this homily, I shared my thoughts on, not only the significance of Mark’s Gospel and the responsibilities and perhaps anxieties of the disciples as Jesus called them to their very special mission, but also the significance of the story of the Good Samaritan and its importance in our daily lives and living the message of Jesus:

Love one another with all your heart, with all your mind and with all your soul; Love them as you would love yourself.

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs, giving them authority over unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff - no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals but, he added, ‘Don’t take a spare tunic.’ And he said to them, ‘If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust under your feet as evidence to them.’ So they set off to proclaim repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

If any of us have travelled long distances on our own, we know that it can be a very lonely time and at times difficult if we are travelling to unfamiliar places. In the Gospel message above, Jesus sends the disciples in pairs. Jesus knows that the way to change is difficult and it is better if the journey and challenges are shared. It is not good for people to be on their own. We must walk together – share the journey, lifting up each other and bringing the love of Jesus to those we meet along the way.

The Good Samaritan story reminds us about the importance of compassion. For compassion to be true, we must go to those in need; we should not wait for those in need to come to us. At the beginning of the Samaritan story, the lawyer asks, “Who is my neighbour?”. Jesus is really asking us in this story, “What kind of neighbour am I?”. As people inspired to action by the love of God through the actions and stories of Jesus, we should challenge ourselves constantly with the question, “What kind of neighbour am I?” Our action should be like the Good Samaritan, “Go and do the same.”

Loving God, help us to love you with all our hearts and to love everyone as you love them. We ask this through Jesus your Son who lives within us. Amen

Have a lovely week. Margaret
RE News

Family Mass – Saturday 29th July
Please join us this weekend for the Parish’s next Family Mass. It will be celebrated at the 6:00pm Saturday Mass. This is a great community celebration with readings and songs chosen with children in mind.

Administration

Parent/Teacher Interviews
Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held for all classes in Weeks 4 & 5, Monday, 31st July – Friday, 11th August.

With the written reporting process finalised for Semester One, it is hoped that all parents and caregivers will take up the opportunity to meet with their child/children’s teacher/s in Parent/Teacher interviews commencing in week 4.

School Improvement Survey
This year our school will be participating in a School Review and Improvement survey managed by Research Australia Development and Innovation Institute (RADII). As well as school staff and students from Years 5 & 6, all parents are invited to participate in the survey. The survey provides valuable feedback for the future directions of our school.

On Monday the 23rd July 2017, all parents received a personalized invitation to complete the survey online. The survey will take approximately 10-15 minutes to complete. You can complete the survey from anywhere you have access to the internet. The survey will close on Sunday, 12th August 2017 for parents.

We encourage you to be very honest in your responses to the surveys. All responses go directly to RADII so they are confidential and anonymous. When the surveys are completed, and responses aggregated by RADII, overall data is sent to us so that we can then share the findings with you.

Term Three School Fees
School Fee Accounts for Term 3 have been sent out. Due date is 25th August. We have also sent a statement for those who pay their fees by Direct Debit.

2nd Hand Uniforms
Our 2nd Hand Uniform pool will be open on Monday, 31st July between 2.30pm and 3.30pm

Woolworths Earn & Learn
St Mary’s School is participating in the Earn & Learn rewards program. Please drop stickers into the box at Woolworths marked St Mary’s or into the school office. This will help us receive valuable equipment for the students.
Advance Notice
For parents who may be planning holidays around the Commonwealth Games next year, we have been advised that Monday, 16th April 2018 is a pupil free day. School will resume for Term 2, 2018 on Tuesday, 17th April 2018.

Tuckshop Roster
Fri 28/7: PUPIL FREE DAY
Thurs 3/8: Jaye Gray, Kirsten Ryan, Jessica Yarin
Fri 4/8: Leanne Bednarz, Rachel Bruyn, Kassandra Sturgeon, Holly Shepherd

Curriculum
Reading
Another focus of the Diocesan Reading Strategy is the importance of students learning high frequency words (sight words). At St Mary’s we use the program ‘Magic Words’.

The Magic 100 Words are very important for your child to master because they make up 65% of the words we read. These words need to be known automatically. There are numerous ways to learn these words but here are some fun ideas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rock and Roll</th>
<th>JUMP HIGH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collect some small rocks outside and use them to form your sight words.</td>
<td>Say your words our loud while jumping.</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sidewalk sketch</th>
<th>ARTISTIC FLAIR</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Write each of your sight words outside on the path using chalk.</td>
<td>Draw pictures of three of your sight words.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Write on my back
Using your finger write each of your sight words on someone’s back. See if they can guess which word you are writing.

$Spelling$ $words$
Write each of your sight words like graffiti.

Bounce
Say your words out loud while bouncing a ball.

Stick in the sand
Use a stick to write your sight words outside in the sand.

Note – these strategies can be used to practice your spelling also.

Sport

Ball Games Carnival
St Mary’s Ball Games Carnival was held on Monday. The winner will be announced at the School Assembly next Monday, 31st July. Students enjoyed the day and showed good sportsmanship.

P&F News

DATE CLAIMER
ST MARY’S TRIVIA NIGHT
FRIDAY, 1ST SEPTEMBER 2017
6.30PM
MacKillop Centre – Upper Campus
A letter with more information is being sent home with this newsletter.

Volunteers Needed
There is a “Helper’s List” at the office of each Campus. If you are able to volunteer a little time to help in any way before or on the night please let the P&F know by popping in and listing your name and contact details.
Library News

Twenty-seven teams from around the Warwick District competed in the 11th annual Readers Challenge at Warwick High School last week. St Mary’s had four teams and other schools included Allora, Freestone, Glennie Heights, Killarney, Warwick Central, Warwick East, Warwick West and Yangan.

The students had to answer 40 tricky questions about four books that they had read. Freestone State School were the winners – their other team also came third. One of the St Mary’s teams had our best result ever – 6th. The other teams were mid-field. Whatever the result, the students had fun.

- **Premier’s Reading Challenge**: This is a non-competitive reading event and is VOLUNTARY. If you would like your child to receive a certificate for reading from the Queensland Premier get a form from Mrs Brosnan or Mrs Kajewski at either library and fill it in. (You just have to read 20 books for Prep – Year 4 students; 15 books for Year 5 – 6).
- **Book Fair is coming in August: ONLY 3 DAYS**: Book Fair will be on Wed August 16; Thursday August 17 and Friday morning August 18.
- **Bookweek in August: activities to be advised.**
Catholic Education Week Celebrations
1D Jumpers and Jazz
Notices

Assumption College Transition Afternoon
Assumption College strives to create a welcoming and supportive community. As part of their continuing efforts to have a smooth transition into Year 7, Assumption College is holding a second Transition Afternoon on Tuesday, 8th August. A letter with full details has been sent home to all families with students enrolled in Year 7, 2018.