Dear Parents, Priests, Staff and Students,

The Season of Lent which we are now in offers us a very special opportunity to grow in our relationship with God and to deepen our commitment to a way of life, centred on our Baptism. In our busy lives, Lent provides us with an opportunity to reflect upon our patterns, to pray more deeply, experience sorrow for what we’ve done and fail to do, and be generous to those in need.

This is reflected in the 3 themes of the Lenten Season, Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving. Over coming weeks the children will explore these themes in class to gain a greater understanding of the Season of Lent and its significance to our faith.

DROP-OFF & PICK—UP: Thank you to all those who have followed the protocols associated with the drop-off and and pick-up zones in the mornings and afternoons. Whilst the zone in front of the school is not officially designated a drop-off zone I am very confident after negotiating with Tweed Shire Council that it soon will be. It is important to remember to enter coming down the hill in Frances Street and queuing before crossing Enid Street. **No one is to turn from Enid Street into the zone in front of the school.** Remember it is illegal to leave your vehicle and children should exist the vehicle on the curb side. Thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter.

ZONE SWIMMING CARNIVAL: Congratulations to all the children who represented our school so wonderfully well at last Monday’s Zone Swimming Carnival in Murwillumbah. Results will be published in the next addition of the newsletter. Special thanks to Mrs Fiona Thompson and Mr Michael Martin for the supervision of our team. Well done all!!
PARENT INFORMATION NIGHTS: Thank you to all those who attended last week’s information sessions. It was wonderful to see so many in attendance and to welcome those new families to the school.

DON’T FORGET TOMORROW IS THE LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER FOR OUR MATHS FAMILY FUN NIGHT NEXT MONDAY.
(See further information in this newsletter.)

Have a great week!!!

Tony Boyle
Principal

2016 School Fee Invoice

The parish school’s office has advised that invoices for 2016 school fees were emailed to families during the week ending 8th February. Families without email addresses recorded had their invoice posted.

Any family who did not receive the invoice should initially check their spam mail and if still not received contact either Kim Lockley (07 5363884 / arc@stjosephs.org.au) or John Klein (07 5536 8701) who will arrange a new invoice to be emailed or posted.

Regards
John Klein
Parish Operations Manager
sfm@stjosephs.org.au

SURF SKILLS YEARS 5 & 6:
A reminder that all Surf Skills (Yrs 5 & 6) money is due next Thursday 25th February. Cost $66.00 per child.

SPEECH AND DRAMA
Classes are held weekly at Saint Joseph’s and classes resume very shortly. For further information or to enrol your child please contact Take 3 Studios. info@take3studios.com.au
The year of mercy

The following is an excerpt from Pope Francis
‘BULL OF INDICATION OF THE EXTRAORDINARY JUBILEE OF MERCY’

“The initiative of “24 Hours for the Lord,” to be celebrated on the Friday and Saturday preceding the Fourth Week of Lent, should be implemented in every diocese. So many people, including young people, are returning to the Sacrament of Reconciliation; through this experience they are rediscovering a path back to the Lord, living a moment of intense prayer and finding meaning in their lives. Let us place the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the centre once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God’s mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace.”

In our parish, we will be holding “24 Hours for the Lord”,
Which includes Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament throughout this period.

Our journey will begin with our Lenten Service of Forgiveness
Friday 4th March commencing at 7pm
Reconciliation will be available up until 10pm

Benediction will be celebrated at 9.45am before we begin our quarterly Healing Mass at the special time of 10am.
Reconciliation will then be available from 11am – 12 midday and from 2pm – 5.30pm

We will conclude with Benediction at 5.45pm and our 6pm Vigil Mass on Saturday 5th March.

Please take this opportunity to participate in this significant time in our Parish Community to be able to spend quiet time with the Lord and have the opportunity for Reconciliation during the Penitential Season Lent and this year of mercy.
Diocese of Lismore

LENTEN Penance
2016

CHRISTIAN practice from the beginning, founded on the word and example of our Lord Jesus Christ, passed on to the present, and reaffirmed by the Church's canon law, calls us to our obligation to do penance. The special times of penance are all Fridays throughout the year, and the season of Lent.

We recall that St John the Baptist prepared for the coming of the Lord by "preaching a baptism of repentance." Christ began his ministry on earth with the call to repent: "Repent and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1:15).

Repentance means the rejection of sin. It implies conversion to, and reconciliation with God.

Penance is the concrete expression of repentance. It takes the forms of prayer, self-denial, and works of charity. Each of these identifies us more closely with Jesus who alone can save us. By penance we make satisfaction for our sins, and take real steps in the renewal of our lives. Penance is the proof of our repentance.

Repentance and conversion are central, ongoing features of Christian living. Penance has to be a constant, even daily, practice in our lives. In setting special times of penance, the Church encourages and promotes in all of her members the habit of penance.

2016: The Year of Mercy. Pope Francis, in announcing this special Holy Year of Mercy reminds us "when faced with the gravity of sin, God responds with the fulness of mercy." This Lent especially is a time for a personal response to our need for God's mercy, a time in which to review, renew, and rebuild our love for God and neighbour.

The Holy Door of Mercy of St Carthage's Cathedral will be open to pilgrims from across the Diocese from 23 February to 20 November 2016.

We must take very seriously our penitential obligations and be sure to carry them out. The Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference has not limited our penance to fast and abstinence in all cases — it leaves room also for responsible individual choice, so that the form of penance embraced will be appropriate for our circumstances and promote a stronger Christian spiritual life.

The Days of Penance
Abstinence from meat, and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.
All who have completed their eighteenth year and have not yet begun their sixtieth year are bound to fast.
All who have completed their fourteenth year are bound to abstain.

Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday (10th February) to the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive (24th March).

The Easter Fast is observed on Good Friday and if possible on Holy Saturday until the Easter Vigil.

On all Fridays of the year the law of the common practice of penance is fulfilled by choosing among the following, for example:

a) Self-denial – abstinence from meat; going without sweets, desserts, alcohol, soft drinks and other luxuries, not only on Lenten Fridays but as ongoing Friday penance & abstinence.

b) Works of mercy – for instance: almsgiving of money to the poor and those in need, giving personal time and effort to help someone who is poor, sick, elderly, lonely or overburdened.

c) Prayer - setting aside time for attending weekday Mass, Scripture study and prayer; union with Our Lord in praying the Stations of the Cross, and in the prayer of Mary's Rosary.

Paschal Precept
Each of the faithful is obliged to receive Holy Communion at least once a year. This is to be done between Ash Wednesday (10th February) and Trinity Sunday (22nd May) unless for a good reason it is done at another time during the year.

All the faithful are obliged to confess their grave sins at least once a year, to a priest, to receive individual sacramental absolution.

Geoffrey Jarrett
The Most Revd Geoffrey Jarrett DD
Bishop of Lismore
St Carthage's Cathedral, Ash Wednesday, 2016.
2016 will be an exciting year for Maths learning at St Joseph’s! Our Whole School Approach to Mathematics includes the full implementation of the new Mathematics syllabus and the Extending Mathematical Understanding (EMU) intervention program. It’s time for parents and families to find out more about the changes and how kids today are learning Maths!

Families who join us on Monday 22nd February will participate in a number of fun mathematical activities and games to be played as a family. There are prizes to be won and gifts to take home. Each game or challenge will demonstrate some of the changes that have occurred in the syllabus or ideas to help improve your child’s skills and understanding in maths. The night will begin with a brief introduction then families will rotate through four rounds of activities/games. Each round will be 15 minutes.

Some of your challenges will include Kebab Tug-o-War, Quick Draw, Ride the Bus and plenty more. All ages will be catered for, from preschool upwards. An optional BBQ will follow with time to chat about the night. Babysitting will be available for babies/toddlers.

Parents and families will need to register their attendance for catering and planning purposes. You can go to the school Moodle page http://moodle.twdplism.catholic.edu.au/ - click on Students then go to Maths Family Fun Night OR please detach the return slip below with your registration details.

Many thanks and hope to see you there!

Tony Boyle and the staff of St Joseph’s Tweed Heads

Registration Form – Count Us In!

Family Name: ____________________________ Student/s Name/s: ____________________________

Number of people attending: ________

We will be staying for the BBQ: YES / NO

I will require babysitting: YES / NO Number & age/s: ____________________________

Register before Thursday 18th February 2016
UPCOMING PRINCIPAL APPRAISAL:

Dear Parents During Term 2 on May 10th and 11th, Tony Boyle will be involved in a principal appraisal process as part of his contract conditions. The appraisal process seeks information from a variety of people associated with the parish school and uses a number of tools to ensure effective consultation. The process aims to highlight the positive aspects of the leadership offered and identify areas for further development. A timeline is currently being arranged to suit the needs of the parish school community. This process will involve parents on official parish school bodies in a formal way through an interview with the appraisal panel. The panel consists of a number of Catholic Schools Office consultants, one of whom will act as chair and a Diocesan principal. The full principal appraisal process involves:

- a survey and self appraisal statement completed by the principal
- an interview with the principal
- input as arranged with the parish priest
- surveys of parents, parish school staff and Catholic Schools Office personnel
- interviews with parish school staff
- interviews with parents holding official positions and other parents on request
- input from students as appropriate.

The preferred method of survey completion is by the online survey form. A link to this form will be forwarded to your email address. Please ensure your current email address is registered at the school as this survey link will be sent to you three weeks prior to the appraisal.

In writing the appraisal report, the chair makes use of the information gathered but does not identify sources. The principal does not sight the original returns and they are destroyed at the CSO once the report is finalised. Every family in the school is encouraged to complete a survey. Parents not on official bodies can request an interview by contacting the school secretary or the chair consultant. A formal appraisal report is provided to the principal. Your support of the appraisal process is appreciated.

Sincerely

Danny Rankin
Chair Consultant