To the St Peter’s community,

How can we learn to look at the world through Christ’s eyes? These are tasks for life. But Advent is a time set aside to stop and reflect in a special way on how Christ comes into our life.

This Sunday is the first one of the Advent season and the beginning of the new Church year. Advent directs us to the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. Our faith is not founded on feelings or emotions. It is founded on one clear fact: that in the birth of Jesus Christ, God came into the world as a human being.

Advent directs our attention to Christ’s coming in our everyday life. He comes when we least expect him: in the awkward person we have to deal with; when we are feeling unwell and are tired with the difficulties of life. Our daily prayer helps us to prepare for those moments.

In the Gospel, Jesus warns his disciples against the fatigue that can emerge if one becomes consumed by the anxieties of daily life. Many families are too familiar with the kind of fatigue Jesus refers to here. We may be concerned about a family member's health, our job security, our children's education or friendships, or any number of other concerns. All these are important matters. Jesus does not promise an end to daily worries and fears, but he does teach his disciples that they will have the strength to withstand anxiety if they stay focused on him, remaining vigilant for his return and praying for strength to endure all tribulations.

Through prayer, God helps us stay focused on that which is most important in our lives.

We Pray

Dear Lord, help me to place my trust in you today and guide me in your truth. Grant me the strength to let go of things I hold onto and in your mercy, Be gracious to me when my heart is heavy and deliver me from anything that keeps my heart from you. Guide my life and my thoughts and help me always to set my hope in you. Amen

Have a wonderful weekend,

Kerry Miller
Principal

ADMINISTRATION

Notices: From next Monday, Dec 3rd, the school office will be accessible from the Wedge St double gates near the pick up/drop off drive through. This temporary location is due to the imminent building works to the front of the school and old school hall. The area between the school and the church will be inaccessible to staff, students and general public as the area will be a restricted building site zone.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- Friday 30th November - Middles Camp Experience 8:30 finish
- Tuesday 11th December - School Sports day
- Thursday 13th December - Christmas hampers to St Vinnies, Carols
- Monday 17th December - Year 6 Graduation
- Tuesday 18th December 1pm - School finishes for students
- Thursday 31st January 2019 - First day of Term 1 for all students

Deborah Racina - Director of First Impressions office@stprepp.catholic.edu.au
Below is the first Gospel reading of Advent.

Week 1 Year C - Luke 21:25-36

Jesus said to his disciples: ‘
Stay awake, praying at all times for the strength to survive all that is going to happen, and to stand with confidence before the Son of Man.’

**Family Reflection:**
At school the way we enter into understanding scripture stories is often through questioning and wondering. The following are some question prompts to delve into what this week’s Gospel means to you....

What are some things you look forward to?
How do you get ready to prepare for them?
This week we begin Advent, what are we preparing for in Advent?
Jesus asks us to watch out and be ready as we make our preparations to celebrate Christmas.
How can we make Advent a time of preparation this week?

**Middle School News**
On Wednesday 5th December, we invite parents to our Middle School Assembly. It will take place at 3pm in Galilee. We look forward to seeing you there!

Next week, the Middle space will have our baskets to fill up to donate to St Vinnies. Our unit last term was looking at people in our community that are in need, so we have been making connections between this appeal and our learning. We would love all families to bring in something to donate to the baskets as Christmas is a time to give generously to people in need.

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**Christmas Hampers**
At St Peter's, a way we actively prepare and wait in hope for the birth of Jesus at Christmas is through providing 32 families in our local community the gift of a Christmas Hamper. The families that each level will be purchasing are now shared so please show your generosity in providing food and gifts. Our Middle School students from the Mini Vinnies group will be promoting this important outreach project in our very generous school community. Final day for food and gifts is Wednesday 12 December.

Remember that these baskets are often the only present that some families receive on Christmas Day so please give generously ensuring that all items are new and of a Christmas nature; something that you would like to give or receive on Christmas Day or something that you would like to eat or drink on Christmas Day.
LEARNING & TEACHING
Faith/Life Inquiry Learning
The teachers and students are exploring the meaning of Advent and how it connects to our lives today. Each level has developed a focus linked to the concept of ‘Journeys, Stories and Voices’, and the children are using the thinking routines such as ‘Peel the Fruit’ to ask questions and seek meaning around the true meaning of Christmas and how we prepare for the coming of Jesus. Provocations include Godly Play, Art and Music, real world events, Christmas Hampers for St Vinnies, Scripture and prayer. A focus to help the children link our Catholic faith and traditions is with world events. Here is an example of this Sunday’s Advent gospel reading linked to the Cave Rescue earlier this year.

SCHOOL COMMUNITY
Walk Through Bethlehem Update
Preparations for Walk Through Bethlehem are well underway with our mini City of Bethlehem beginning to take shape. This week, some senior students volunteered to assist with unpacking the props and placing them in their scenes under the guidance of Maj and Virgilio. The seniors students are excited to continue to assist in the coming weeks.
The setup of Bethlehem is a time consuming task. We ask community members to consider their ability to volunteer some of their time between now and the opening of WTB in support of St Peter’s School and this iconic event.

Christmas Raffle
Tickets for the St Peter’s raffle now for sale for $1 with additional tickets available at the office. Return ticket stubs with money by Wednesday 12th December in a labelled envelope including eldest child’s name and contact group. Raffle will be drawn on Friday 14th December at school.

Prizes
1st Prize: Pantry full of grocery items
2nd Prize: $375 JD photography voucher
3rd Prize: One term of drama lessons with O’Grady Drama Academy
4th Prize: Christmas hamper
5th Prize: $25 voucher to Coffee N Crust, Wollert
Bonus prize for the family with the highest ticket sales: $30 Hoyts Gift Card

Julie Percy - Director of Learning & Teaching juliep@stprepp.catholic.edu.au

Emma Canning - Director of School Community ecanning@stprepp.catholic.edu.au
STUDENT WELLBEING

Cyber safety

Cyber safety is a very important element of growing up. Our children are exposed to so many different games, apps and social networking and as children they don’t often have the skills to be able to determine what are good choices and not so good choices. It is especially hard when their friends may be playing games that they are not able to play.

The games below are some of the games we are being told the children are playing and this is concerning. These games are NOT appropriate for primary aged children.

What is concerning is the behaviours that they are exhibiting in relation to these games when they are recreating the games in the playground.

Children are playing these games online and chatting to other people in the online environment. Considerable antisocial behaviour is taking place in this online space, causing considerable distress to others through name calling, teasing and ridiculing. Children have the right to be safe both at home and at school; this antisocial online behaviour is unsafe for children at home and is spilling over into school life creating a bigger problem for children. Do you know what your child is playing online and who they are playing with? Are you sure they are safe? Do you know what they are posting online?

**Call of Duty MA 15+** This game is NOT suitable for primary aged children.

**Counter-Strike 17+** This game is NOT suitable for primary aged children

**Fortnite Battle Royale 13+** NOT suitable for primary aged children

**Tik Tok 16+** NOT suitable for primary aged children

Some tips from the Office of the Esafety Commission.
- Set a time limit for how long children spend on devices
- Ensure they are getting enough sleep and not playing into late/early hours
- Ensure you know who they are playing online games with
- Have control over privacy settings

This is a great website for tips and ideas around keeping our children safe online - [esafety](#)

Dr Justin Coulson - Happy Families

I would like to share this website with you as it has many many valuable resources in terms of living with and working with children. All children and families are different and he has so many great readings, clips and quotes that are practical and valuable. Heading into the Christmas holiday break is a good time to be armed with resources to manage tired, excited children.

Check the website out it is great. [Justin Coulson Happy Families](#)

Jackie Fleischmann - Director of Student Wellbeing [jfleischmann@stprepp.catholic.edu.au](mailto:jfleischmann@stprepp.catholic.edu.au)

Extend Before & After School Care at St Peter’s Primary School

**Recap**

This week the children had free play most of the week as educators prepare for Christmas and school holiday program, children made playdough, they got together in a group and read through the recipe and then took it in turns to measure, pour and stir the ingredients together.

Children decided to make yellow playdough which represented sand, we then added natural resources for the children to play with. Children played indoor and outdoor games which involved wink murder, poison ball, silent ball, dodgeball, chasey, tiggy and many more games. Thursday children participated in an activity where they drew shapes on a paper then coloured them in making a page full of shapes and colour.

**What’s on next week?**

**Monday** Aboriginal dot painting  **Tuesday** Cardboard collage  **Wednesday** Outdoor games  **Thursday** Adventure playground  **Friday** Meditation

**Bookings:** [extend.com.au](http://extend.com.au)

REGISTRATION IS FREE
St Peter’s 2019 Staffing Update

It is with great excitement that we introduce our new staff who will be joining the St Peter’s Community in 2019.

Kylie
Hi, my name is Kylie Coghlan and I have recently returned to Melbourne from Darwin where I taught at St Mary’s Catholic Primary School for the past 6 years. I have a strong passion for educating young minds, helping them blossom into well-rounded, responsible and successful individuals.

I am enthusiastic and committed to working as an effective and positive team and school community member and believe that the collaborative process is vital to achieving successful outcomes for students.

In my spare time I enjoy going on family outings with my husband Shane and two adorable sons Oliver and Mitchell. I also love shopping, reading, playing basketball and following the football “GO SWANS!”

I look forward with great anticipation to becoming a part of the whole school community at St Peter’s in 2019.

Robbie
Hi, my name is Robbie Raymond. I graduated as a classroom teacher from Monash University and have been working as a mainstream generalist teacher and music specialist teacher for six years. My teaching experience has enabled me to build relationships with children of all different backgrounds and cultures. I have been successful at recognizing the importance of each individual student’s needs to be successful, flexible learners.

As a teacher, I often integrate music into my lessons where the children explore: percussion, drums, piano, guitar, ukulele and singing songs. I find this can help students engage in the school curriculum framework and also helps to build those very important student teacher relationships. I understand that the students need to trust their teachers before they can learn.

I am looking forward to sharing my Catholic Faith and knowledge with the staff and children of St Peter’s Primary School.

Billy
My name is Billy and I am very excited to join the St Peter’s school community in 2019! I can’t wait to meet you all, but for now, here is a little information about me.

I was born overseas and moved to Australia with my parents when I was a baby. Ever since I was little, I have loved to read books of all genres. Even today, reading is my greatest hobby.

Another thing I enjoy doing is baking. I love to try different recipes and challenge myself with different ingredients. Along with baking, I also enjoy eating! Going out to dinner with my family and friends is my favourite thing to do. I love exploring different cultures through their cuisine and delicacies.

I first knew I wanted to be a teacher in grade 2. My teacher at the time was such a supportive and inspiring mentor and from that moment I knew I wanted to support students to grow just like she did with me.

I researched a number of schools and found that St Peter’s was the best fit for me. I enjoy learning from all the different people around me and am excited to join a school community that promotes the same approach to learning.

I am looking forward to not only begin my teaching career in 2019, but also continue my life long learning journey surrounded by the staff, students and extended school community at St Peter’s.
Tenneale
My name is Tenneale Grayden and I am honoured to be given the opportunity to join St Peter’s Primary school community. I am so privileged to work alongside you all and be a part of your child’s journey to becoming lifelong learners. I am passionate to help and support students, to see students grow and achieve their best. I’m excited to work in partnership with you all to provide a supportive learning environment where children are empowered to be thinkers, encouraged to take risks and reflect on their learning.

I taught at St Laurence Catholic primary School in a little country town called Leongatha (near Phillip Island) for 10 years before moving to Melbourne in 2017. I am married to Stuart, and we have three very energetic children, Logan 8, Indy 6 and Shelby 3. I enjoy playing netball, going to watch the Pies play footy, going out for coffee and hanging out with my family. My favourite time of the year is Christmas when we can reflect on the birth of Jesus, spend time with our families and of course eat way too much Christmas pudding.
I am really looking forward to getting to know each and every one of you.

Amy
My name is Amy Clifford and I am really excited about being a part of the St Peter’s learning community. My husband Brendan and I have three boys; Daniel who starts high school next year, Jayden who is going into Grade 5 and Nathan who will start his first year of school next year.
My family and I love AFL, especially watching the Tigers play. We also enjoy tennis, bike riding and travelling together. I love teaching and learning in partnership with the children and their families using their interests and ideas. I am passionate about building self confidence and pride in the individual child by finding their interest and talents.

My family and I have lived in Shepparton for the past four years and are looking forward to returning back to Melbourne. I have been privileged to work at St Mel’s while in Shepparton and am amazed that I have been able to find a school in Melbourne that has similar ideas about teaching and learning, especially one that understands the philosophy that I am passionate about.
I am looking forward to meeting and working with you all in 2019.

Louise P
My name is Louise Pantano and I am thrilled to be a new prep teacher at St Peter’s Primary School in 2019.

In my spare time I love to read and I am always my happiest when I am spending time with my family or friends. I am also very interested in travelling to new places, exploring new cultures and going on great adventures.

St Peter’s Primary School aims to empower students to be critical thinkers and active participants in their community; this is something that drew me to become part of the community at St Peter’s Primary School as I also hope to develop a great sense of confidence in students where they acknowledge the power they hold to make a difference to their world. I was also attracted to the Discovery Play Based Inquiry Learning that St Peter’s Primary School implements as this way of teaching and learning is something I am familiar with, as I also hold a background in Early Childhood education.

For me, the best thing about teaching is being able to give a little piece of me to my students and witness how children can flourish as individuals and learners. I love teaching and appreciate the great connections I am able to make with children, and create a learning environment where they always feel supported.
I look forward to meeting and working with you all in 2019!
Elise
Hi everyone, my name is Elise. I have two cheeky dogs called Milo and Lily and love the Essendon Football Club.

I am so excited to be officially joining your school community next year. I am a passionate teacher eager to engage and encourage my students and I hope to continue that next year.

During my time working at St Peters this year, I have enjoyed seeing students explore and collaborate to learn and create new things. I have also enjoyed getting to know all of the amazing students and incredible staff at the school. I am excited to develop these positive relationships further next year.
See you all next year!

Melanie
Hi St Peter’s community,
My name is Melanie and I am excited to be part of the St Peter’s community as a middle school teacher in 2019. What drew me to St. Peter’s was a desire to work as a team providing new and interesting learning experiences for students.

I have a background as an Art and Multimedia teacher, so naturally I love to work in creative ways with children facilitating curiosity, imagination and self-expression.
My mum has always said, that I “was born a teacher”. I chose teaching because I am passionate about helping others, and I adore watching children grow and develop confidence to achieve their goals.
Two ways to describe me would be enthusiastic and a lover of animals.
I can't wait to see you next year!

Lara
Hello! I would love to introduce myself as a new member of the St Peter’s community in 2019. My name is Lara Beltrame and I am thrilled to be teaching and learning alongside the students and teachers next year!
My love and passion for teaching became apparent when I had the opportunity to travel to Cambodia back in 2004 and 2005. It was there that I was able to volunteer with teachers, students and international organisations to teach English to students and to donate resources that we had fundraised for. The experience was invaluable and one that I love to talk about and share with others. Similarly, in my past classroom teaching roles and Visual Arts / Performing Arts specialist teaching roles, I have worked closely with staff, parents, students and the wider school community to build positive and professional relationships to inspire a love of learning.

I am enthusiastic about incorporating ICT, Visual Art and Performing Arts experiences into my classroom, along with my experience in Inquiry Based Learning, to assist high quality teaching and meaningful learning experiences where students feel safe, secure, challenged and able to make informed opinions and decisions. I'm looking forward to assisting students to take their learning a step further, for rich, hands-on learning.

Educational Philosophy: “Give a man a fish and feed him for a day. Teach a man how to fish and feed him for a lifetime” – Chinese Proverb.
My hobbies include reading, drawing and playing games with our young daughter, heading to see some live theatre, cooking up a storm and dancing at Kangatraining!
I look forward to meeting with you all next year!
The Catholic Parish of Epping, Epping North

First Sunday of Advent Year C
Sunday, 2 December 2018

FIRST READING-33:14-16
A Reading from the Prophet Jeremiah.
See, the days are coming— it is the Lord who speaks— when I am going to fulfill the promise I made to the House of Israel and the House of Judah:

‘In those days and at that time, I will make a virtuous Branch grow for David, who shall practice honesty and integrity in the land. In those days Judah shall be saved and Israel shall dwell in confidence. And this is the name the city will be called: The Lord-our-integrity.’
The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM-Ps 24: 4-5, 8-9, 10, 14, 16 R. V.1
(R.) To you, O Lord, I lift my soul.
1. Lord, make me know your ways. Lord teach me your paths. Make me walk in your truth and teach me: for you are God my savior.
2. The Lord is good and upright. He shows the path to those who stray, he guides the humble in the right path; he teaches his way to the poor.
3. His ways are faithfulness and love for those who keep his covenant and will. The Lord’s friendship is for those who revere him; to them he reveals his covenant.

SECOND READING-3:12-4:2
A Reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Thessalonians.
May the Lord be generous in increasing your love and make you love one another and the whole human race as much as we love you. And may he so confirm your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless in the sight of our God and Father when our Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

Finally, brothers, we urge you and appeal to you in the Lord Jesus to make more and more progress in the kind of life that you are meant to live: the life that God wants, as you learnt from us, and as you are already living it. You have not forgotten the instructions we gave you on the authority of the Lord Jesus.
The word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION-Ps 84:8
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lord, shows us your mercy and love,
And grant us your salvation.

Alleluia!

Plenary Council Prayer
O God, bless and unite all your people in Australia and guide us on the pilgrim way of the Plenary Council.
 Give us the grace to see your face in one another and to recognize Jesus, our companion on the road.
 Give us the courage to tell our stories and to speak boldly of your truth.
 Give us ears to listen humbly to each other and a discerning heart to hear what you are saying.
 Lead your Church into a hope-filled future, that we may live the joy of the Gospel.
 Through Jesus Christ our Lord, bread for the journey from age to age.
 Amen.

Our Lady Help of Christians, pray for us.
St Mary Mackillop, pray for us.

Let us pray for the sick: Cheryl D’sa, Mark Paul Flavier, Rita Carusi, Dominic Pratillo, Janey Hoorigan, Jay Larkas, Jennifer Harbour, Shanin Farrugia, Sabrina Jansz, Carmel McKenzie, Faten Elmenawi, Michael & Roni Donovan, Carmen Caruana, Rosa Maria Santos, Mario Paola, Laura Patullo, Patsy Jeffken, Dean Scerri, James Sheppard, Madison Parker, Mary Attard, Danny Callaghan, Bernadette Arathoon and Justin Bordon

We are committed to a safe and nurturing culture for all children in our Church.

Recent Death:
Anniversary: Chris Toshack

Rite of Welcome for Baptism
Lucie Zengan, Bertrons Clarke
Zac Dixon and Swan Borg
Welcome to our Parish Through Baptism
Ambrose Cavasso
COMMUNITY NEWS!!!

CWL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Tickets for our annual Christmas Raffle will be on sale at all weekend Masses on 1st, 2nd and 8th-9th December. There are six great prizes to be won, including the main prize of a homemade decorated Christmas Cake. Proceeds will go to St Joseph’s and St Mary’s Orphanages in India, so please support this worthy cause.

Walk Through Bethlehem
It is time to plan the starting of our very special community Christmas event, “Walk Through Bethlehem” and we want you to be involved!

Walk Through Bethlehem will take place for the fourth year in a row at St Peter’s Primary School, between 21st – 23rd December, 2018. Walk Through Bethlehem is a living display of life in a small town at the time of the birth of Jesus. Members of St Peter’s wider community are invited to join in the spirit of Christmas by being part of the staging of Walk Through Bethlehem in one of the following ways:

Participation in a scene during the event: No acting experience is required and there are no speaking parts.

Selling merchandise or working on food stalls

Set Up: Set up will take place daily between 24th November until 19th December. No experience is required as our Director and Producer, Virgilio will be on site everyday. Even a couple of hours can make a huge difference!

Pack Up: As with any event, pack up is required. We need as many adult helpers as possible to get our school back to normal again.

Walk Through Bethlehem is free to the public.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL CHRISTMAS APPEAL

Over the coming weeks, the Epping Conference invites the Parish Community to contribute to our Christmas Baskets located in the foyer and the side door at St Peter’s and near the right side of the wall for Masses at St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. We invite all parishioners to assist with this effort, we would be especially grateful for donations of food which help to make Christmas special for families including shortbread, fruit cake, puddings, mince tarts, savoury snacks, etc.

Church cleaning – Saturday 8 December - Anne Toshack, Elizabeth Rosario and Anna Marimpiella

ST PETER’S CHARMATIC PRAYER GROUP:
1st Mass, 1st Friday of every month with Youth Band 7.30 – 9pm
2nd & 4th Friday Rosary, Praise and Worship and talk 7.15pm
3rd Saturday Retreat and Mass with Chorus 1.30 – 4pm

If you would like an item/anniversary included in the weekly Newsheet it is important that you have it to the Parish Office by Wednesday morning.

Contact 9401 6300 or email epping@cam.org.au