God loved the world so much...and so should we.

In the past week, I was thinking about a tin of salmon. From the person catching the fish in Alaska to me putting it on the bench, how many different groups of people co-operated with each other for this to happen? The number would be well in the hundreds – from the fishing crew, the boat builders, the various service agents, the label designers, the manufacturers of the printing dyes – and that doesn’t even get the tin out of North America. Hundreds of different groups of people co-operating with each other makes a miracle of social harmony symbolised in that tin of fish! And this social harmony happens every day with nearly everything we touch.

But you wouldn’t think so by following the media or listening to people. We tend to narrow our vision and focus on when the social harmony breaks down. In Lent, we are called to repent – to change our way of thinking. Recognising the co-operation that is integral to our life together as human beings is one area where we could change our thinking. The Son of God, was born, lived our life, died and rose again because God loved the world so much! God well knows the sin of human failure and dissension but continues to love the world, us, the seething mass of humanity, so much. So let us be God-like and set our minds and hearts upon appreciating the good that is around us and between us.

Loving God, send us your Spirit that we may recognise and appreciate the many, many times we work together in harmony. May we recognise the Spirit of Jesus moving through humanity teaching us to love the world as you did. We ask this in Jesus’ name confident that you will hear us.

Sr Kym Harris osb

Dear Parents,

Last Thursday we gathered as a community to pray for a successful year together and to also commission members of our school community. It was great to see many parents in attendance. Fr Greg was very proud of the students and their participation in the celebration. Thank you to Miss Hinchen and the Grade 6 leaders for their efforts in planning and setting up the Mass. We will gather together for numerous celebrations and feast days during the Church year and teams will plan a Mass with our friends from the Parish on the last Friday of each month.

I hope families enjoyed the long weekend and had an opportunity to relax with family and friends. Unfortunately mine was fairly ordinary with the Blackman’s Bay Sharks losing both final games and not making the grand final after finishing the season on top of the ladder. Great to see large numbers of boys catching the bus to football training last Thursday and I enjoy reading the Huon News each week where I am able to follow the achievements of our students in numerous sporting and community activities. Being involved in a team or a group is crucial to the development of the children.

Dates for your diaries

16th March – Catholic Swimming Carnival
20th March – P&F Meeting – 9.00am
- Free Dress Day
21st March – Kinder/Prep Excursion to Bonorong Park
26th March – Pupil Free Day
27th March – Huon/Channel Swimming Carnival

State Little Athletics Championships
Hailee Baldwin
Under 10:
60m Hurdle - Gold
Shot Put - Bronze
Well Done Hailee
P&F AGM
The Parents & Friends Association held their Annual General meeting last Wednesday evening. It was a very positive meeting with many parents in attendance.

It will be an exciting year for our P&F group with a committee of more than twelve dedicated parents.

Congratulations to our elected committee:
President – Narelle Gane
Vice President – Kate Greaves
Secretary – Angela Cross
Treasurer – Amanda Twaits
Committee Members – Sharee Burgess, Trudi Short, Karen Spilling, Catherine Grey, Narelle Duggan, Karlee Delaney, Michelle Dolaghan, Tricia Phillips, Nadine Seabourne & Maree McQueen. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the long term executive members of the P&F that have worked tirelessly for many years to ensure the students and staff have the best possible resources and facilities. Sharee Burgess and Narelle Duggan are to be congratulated for all their efforts and the great support they have given all members of the community, particularly the children who have enjoyed the numerous activities, stall and events they have organised.

The P&F are holding a plainclothes day for all students on Tuesday 20th March. Students are asked to make a gold coin donation, which will assist the P&F in their purchasing of the eggs for the Easter raffle.

P&F meetings are open to all parents and they meet once a month on a Tuesday morning in the staff room from 9.00am. The next meeting is Tuesday 20th March.

School Uniform
The P&F have been working with the staff the last few years to investigate updating our uniform. We are at the stage at the moment where our stocks are low in certain items in the uniform shop, so we need to reorder. Please read carefully the note that will go home Wednesday explaining the changes to our uniform that will take place over the next few years. Please note that there is no expectation that families purchase any new items until they are required.

Our new uniform when it is fully implemented will save families significant funds.

School Board
Our School Board also held their Annual General Meeting last week. I would like to congratulate our Board members for 2012:
Chair – Tony Bradley
Vice Chair – David Clark
Treasurer/Secretary – Fiona Donato
Committee Members – Fr Greg Barker, Michael Buick, Adrian Short & Fiona Steel.

Another committed group in our school community that give great support to me in the financial running of the school and other key areas. Our School Board meet once a month on a Thursday evening. Thank you to Tony and his group for their guidance and support.

PUPIL FREE DAY
Hopefully all families have Monday 26th March marked as a pupil free day on their calendars.

Catholic Swimming Carnival
We have a team organised and raring to participate in the Southern Catholic Schools Swimming Carnival this Friday morning (9.30am). The event is being held at the Hobart Aquatic Centre. All members of the team are meeting at school at 8.00am for the bus ride up. Please ensure you are on time as the bus can’t afford to wait. Thank you to Mrs Campagna and Miss Longey for looking after our team. A team will also be chosen to compete in the Huon/Channel Competition on Tuesday 27th March.

School Assembly
Our Prep team are running our assembly this Wednesday afternoon at 2.00pm. Our assemblies are an opportunity for students to be recognised for the contributions they are making in and out of the classrooms.

Merit Certificate
Juliet Kovac - The positive way that you approached your WDP work.
In 2008, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) commenced in Australian schools. The program is scheduled to continue in 2012 with all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 to be assessed using common national tests in Reading, Writing, Language Conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and Numeracy.

Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 students in Tasmania have been participating in literacy and numeracy tests for a number of years, so there is familiarity with the test formats and the types of questions.

The scheduled dates for the tests in 2012 are Tuesday 15 May, Wednesday 16 May and Thursday 17 May.

These national tests will provide information on how students are progressing against national minimum standards of literacy and numeracy skills expected for each year level, as well as performance across the whole range of student abilities. The results will support improvements in teaching and learning for students.

Parents will receive an individual report that shows their child’s results and a comparison of their child’s performance against all other Australian students in their year level. The report will also indicate how your child performed in comparison to the national average and the levels of achievement expected at that year level.

For students in Years 5, 7 and 9, the results from the 2012 tests will provide parents and schools with important information on progress made since they last participated in NAPLAN testing in 2010.

The best way you can assist your child is by making them feel comfortable about the nature and purpose of the tests, and assure them that the tests will give them an opportunity to show what they have learned in class.

For more information about the national tests, including test samples, frequently asked questions, the test schedule and a parent information brochure, please visit the national NAPLAN website at: [http://www.nap.edu.au](http://www.nap.edu.au)

Have a great week

Stuart Kelly
Principal

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**PALM SUNDAY PILGRIMAGE: Sunday 1st April**

All students, staff, family and friends are invited to join with the rest of the Tasmanian Church to celebrate Palm Sunday Pilgrimage! This is an event for all ages to mark Palm Sunday, World Youth Day and to celebrate our Catholic Church. Featuring special guest and singing sensation, Fr Rob Galea, along with: pilgrim walk; free kids activities; food; drink; police escorted Street Procession and Mass at St. Mary’s Cathedral. Buses will be available from around the state! Experience the energy and Join in the Fun at this massive event. For more information and to Register go to: [www.cymtas.org.au](http://www.cymtas.org.au) or contact Rachelle on 0400 045 368 or rachelle.smith@aohtas.org.au

**Palm Sunday Pilgrimage: Volunteers**

Palm Sunday Pilgrimage doesn't happen without the help of wonderful and dedicated volunteers. We are currently looking for people who can volunteer their time and/or skills as: walking marshals, clean-up team, lunch preparation, manning stalls and pick-up and delivery of equipment. If you feel you can help in any of these ways, please contact Rachelle on 0400 045 368 or rachelle.smith@aohtas.org.au
CCT ANNUAL FOOTY POINTS TICKETS
If you would like to secure weekly season tickets in this exciting fundraiser for our friends in Cambodia please fill in the below and return to school by 16th March, with money.

Name: ..........................................................

Send tickets home with ......................... in Grade ........

Season ticket = $28 please enclose with the above. This can be paid in instalments!!

The first game played each round will be the points game. The difference between the scores is the "points" margin.
If the difference is over 100 the winning ticket is the last two numbers eg Brisbane wins by 199 then the person with 99 is the winner that week.
If the result is a draw then the person with the draw score wins for that week!!

Pretty simple and lots of fun… anyone can join in.

If you have any questions please ring.

Fiona and Trish
0427 560 151 (Fiona)