



ST. FRANCIS OF THE FIELDS

December 19, 2019

(Term 4 – Week 11)

The Jaara people are the traditional custodians of the land on which we live. They have lived here for thousands of years. We commit to working for Reconciliation and justice for all Aboriginal people and to learning more about the Jaara people.

“To Live, Learn and Grow in God’s Love”

Reminders

Thursday December 19

- ☐ LAST DAY OF TERM 4 – **3.20pm finish**

Wednesday January 1 2020

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Tuesday January 28 2020

- ☐ Teachers return for 2020 school year

Wednesday January 29

- ☐ Pupil Free Day – MAI Testing

Thursday January 30

- ☐ Pupil Free Day – MAI Testing

Friday January 31

- ☐ Students start their 2020 school year
- ☐ Foundation attend 9am - 12.30pm



“For it is in giving that we receive.” St Francis of Assisi



Remembering Christmas...

*The joy of discovery
that moment
when hope and expectation
were gloriously met
by the illumination of one bright star.
We cannot imagine
what words were spoken by visitors
or if first impressions left them somewhat confused.
Messiah, Saviour, a King born in the barest of palaces.
Yet they saw and fell down on their knees in adoration.
Lord, they saw you and knew whom they had met.
As we meet around crib, candle or advent wreath
draw us into that stable in our imagination.
In the quiet moments of prayer this Christmas,
that brief oasis from the bustle of the world bring alive to us
the smell of the hay, the sound of the animals, the cry of a baby.
Draw us close to our Saviour
Messiah and King as we bring
not Gold, Myrrh or Frankincense
but the gift of our lives
the only offering we can bring.*



Farewell and Congratulations Yr 6's



Last night we farewelled our Class of 2019 Year 6's. We wish them all the best for their future endeavours and thank them for being such a wonderful part of the St Francis Community.

We would like to congratulate our Yr 6 Award winners:

St Therese's Parish Kennington Award

- Caleb Eltringham
- Eilish Grieve
- Charles Loorham
- Alexia Carmichael

St Francis of the Fields School Award

- Jonah Bath
- Chelsea Breene

Strathfieldsaye Lions Club – All Rounder Scholarship

- Jaida Raco
- Tessa Skipper

AWG Psychology – Social Justice Award

- Smith Holliday
- Sophie Ryan

School Sports Victoria Medal

- Jaidi Jackson-Leahy

St Francis of the Fields Music Award

- Tarah Frawley

Indonesian Award

- Charli Crawford

Visual Arts Award

- Genevieve Nihill

We also thank and farewell the following families who are leaving the St Francis Community at the end of 2019:

Bieleny
Bimenyimana
Bond
Crawford
Durward
Eastwood
Edwards
Eltringham

Gay
Grinton
Guest
Hancock
Howard
Lawler
Manderson
McNutt

Miller
Moore
O'Keefe
Parkinson
Ryan
Ryan
Saltmarsh
Skipper

Stevens
Toomey
Trewick
Turner
Anderson
Gaskell

2020 Start of School

St. Francis of the Fields will be starting the 2020 school year later than many schools in the Bendigo region because we will be holding one Pupil Free Day and two Maths Interview days.

The purpose of these days is to ensure that teachers will be available to complete mathematics interviews (MAI) for every child in our school. This will require each family to use the link below to book a 30-minute time with their class teacher on either Wednesday 29th or Thursday 30th January. Please book in your preferred time before Wednesday 18th December, 2019.

School Interviews Online - <https://www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code?z=ri3VwV>

m2rfa

Please see the 2020 starting dates below:

- Sunday 26 January, 2020
 - All new families are welcome to attend the Welcome Day in the Community Centre at 10.00am
 - BYO Plate – Cuppa provided.
- Tuesday 28 January, 2020
 - Teachers resume
- Wednesday 29 & Thursday 30 January, 2020
 - All children (Prep - Year 6) will come in for their MAI testing
 - Uniform Shop will be open from 8.30am – 3.20pm
- Friday 31 January, 2020
 - Prep/Foundation children – Attend from 9.00 – 12.30pm (please pack lunch boxes)
 - Year 1-6: All children attend full days
 - Uniform Shop will be open from 8.30am – 11.00am
- Monday 3 February, 2020
 - Prep/Foundation children – Attend from 9.00 – 12.30pm (please pack lunch boxes)
 - Year 1-6: All children attend full days
 - Uniform Shop will be open from 8.30am – 10.00am
- Tuesday 4 February, 2020
 - All students attend full days

Swimming in 2020

The end of the year is quickly approaching. I hope you have a great holiday and enjoy the warm weather with your families. I am sure you will spend many a day swimming at the beach or in a pool. The Year 3-6 children will have their swimming lessons on the first Monday back at school next year – please ensure you promptly return your child's swimming permission note.

Swimming Lesson dates:

Monday 3 February
Wednesday 5 February
Thursday 6 February
Monday 10 February



It would be great if you get a chance to swim at the Bendigo East Swimming Pool during the holidays. The children will be invited to swim freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and invitational butterfly at the school swimming sports on **Thursday 13 February**. They can choose between the distances of 25m kickboard, 25m and 50m. The events children will compete in will be discussed and finalised during the swimming lessons in 2020.

Parish News....

Hi Parishioners

Christmas is nearly upon us. The parish has a special children's pageant mass on Christmas Eve (Monday 24 December at 6:00pm) in the sports stadium at St Francis of the Fields, Strathfieldsaye.

The Children's Liturgy Team, ably led by Megan Merrett, is organising the pageant. If your primary school children wish to be part of the pageant, and there are many parts, please contact Megan via email - st.thereses.parish@outlook.com



Fr Andrew is looking forward to catching up with you all at the various Parish Christmas masses.

Christmas Eve –

6:15pm Children's Mass – The Shed @ St Francis of the Fields School, Strathfieldsaye

8:00pm Family Mass– St Therese's Kennington.

Midnight Mass

12.00am Poor Clare's - Monastery of the Holy Ghost – Edwards Rd. Kennington

Christmas Day –

8:00am - Poor Clares' Monastery of the Holy Ghost – Edwards Rd. Kennington.

8:00am - St Therese's Kennington

9:00am - St Joseph's Church Axe Creek and

9:00am - St Mary's Axedale



There will be **NO** regular weekday Masses at St Therese's on the 26 & 27 December, however the usual weekday Masses at Poor Clares' Monastery will be celebrated at 8am.

Fr Andrew would like to wish all Parishioners a happy and holy Christmas season

For Christmas Mass times for every parish in the Diocese go to www.sandhurst.catholic.org.au

The usual Sunday Mass times are also available. This is a great resource to check times for those who are travelling over the holiday period.

Keep up to date with Parish news by liking our Facebook page – St Therese's Parish Kennington



Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year

Cheers, Joe Van Dillen

Pastoral Associate

