ADVENT: We are a people of promise. For centuries, God prepared people for the coming of his Son, our only hope for life. At Christmas we celebrate the fulfillment of the promises God made—that he would give a way to draw near to him. **Advent** is what we call the season leading up to Christmas. It begins four Sundays before December 25. The First Sunday of Advent is Sunday, December 1. During this Advent, may we get ready for Christmas by taking time to be still, to pray and to give thanks for the year that has been. Pray this prayer with your family during the First Week of Advent.

‘O Jesus Christ, Emmanuel, come and dwell with us. Gift of all people, come and make your home with us. All people are waiting for you. Lord Jesus, come to us. Amen’

**ORIENTATION & TRANSITION DAY:** Tuesday 3rd December. Yr 6 students transferring to Thomas Carr College will be at the College for the day. Students from Prep—Yr5 at St Francis will meet with their 2014 home group teachers. Students starting with us in 2014 Yr 1-6 have been invited to join us for this session. They will be at St Francis from 11.30am-2.30pm. We look forward to welcoming them to our community.

**2014 HOME GROUPS:** We are currently finalising home groups for 2014. Our structure for next year is: 3 Preps; 3 Yr 1’s; 5 Yr 2/3’s; 1 Yr 4; 2 Yr 5/6’s. While we have 6 home groups in the Prep—Yr 1 level, 7 teachers will work with these students to provide optimum learning for all in their early years of schooling.

The Yr 4-6 students will work together in the same learning pod and as one learning community, as Yr 3-6 have done this year.

Christmas Presentation & Family Night: All levels are busily preparing for this night. Please make sure you return the reply slip by tomorrow. A flier will be sent home today with some helpful tips for you to create a simple costume for this presentation.

**Thursday, December 19**
You are invited to our End of Year Mass, Graduation presentation and parent volunteer thank you
10.00: End of year Mass
11.00: Parent volunteer morning tea
11.30: Graduation presentation

More details to come

**PIP**
What a great effort by all on our Walkathon day last Friday. The children loved using Thomas Carr oval and were keen to walk as many laps as possible. We are grateful for their partnership.

We had a wonderful number of parents, toddlers and grandparents who came to watch as well as participate in the walkathon. Thanks to the PIP fundraising group, Toni, Alison, Leah and Kellie in particular who made this event possible, with Emily’s support.

We also enjoyed a delicious lunch which was organised by the PIP social group—thanks to Belinda, Alex, Tanya D, Tania, Susan, Naomi, Nicole, Nikolina, Alicia, Claudina and Dina for their support. None of these events are possible without this important partnership, where parents & staff are working for us behind the scenes for the benefit of our children.

As a result of this fund raising event we have raised over $5000.00 for our school. Thank you all for your generosity!
Make me a channel of your peace; Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.