ADVENT WEEK 1: We begin the important Season of Advent this Sunday. We celebrate Year C, which is the Year of Luke. The gospel readings for Advent each year invite us to meditate on the mystery of waiting and they do this by telling us stories of great people who knew how to wait. This first Sunday of Advent, Jesus himself is the model as he taught his followers about ‘waiting in joyful hope’. It is a time of anticipation and waiting for the great feast of Christmas. With Christmas fast approaching, we would like to take this opportunity to remind parents to encourage students to keep in mind the reason for the season. The excitement of the birth of Jesus is a joyous time of celebration. Let’s build that feeling of anticipation and waiting by limiting the giving of cards and other commercial practices to the last week of school.

On Friday 27th November at 3.00pm we will mark the First Sunday of Advent with an Advent Prayer. This will be done over the PA while the children are in their spaces. We invite parents, grandparents and carers to come along to this opportunity to pray with us.

ADVENT GIVING TREE: 30th Nov-11th Dec
This tree will be in the Yr2 area near our Advent & Christmas Sacred Space. The school community is asked to bring items for those who may need some assistance during this coming Christmas season. The items should be non-perishable food items or items that may help families decorate their homes and/or Christmas table. We will donate all items to St Vincent de Paul for distribution. When items are brought to school, place them in the boxes provided, and take the opportunity to decorate the “Giving Tree” with one of the decorations made by the students.

TRANSITION DAY is Tuesday. Yr 6 students enrolled at Thomas Carr College for 2016 will spend the day at the college. We wish them all the best as they have their orientation experience. Prep—Yr 5 students will have a session (12.00-1.30pm) with their 2016 home groups and teachers. We will be welcoming 13 new students and 3 new staff members.

CELEBRATION of DANCE
Our community’s end of year celebration of learning.
Thursday 3rd December
7.15—9.30pm
Arrival time for students: 6.45pm
Rehearsals on Monday at St James
Raffle tickets will be on sale $1 each.
Prize winners drawn on the night.
See flier for the great range of prizes.
PRAYERS for the SICK: We continue to pray for Arn (mother of Eddie Yr 4 & grandmother of Zo’Arn Yr 2), Edmond (who lives in Poland and is grandfather of Pola Yr 3 & Hannah Prep), Dora (Mirjana’s mother), Dean, (grandfather of Josh Yr 2 & Alannah Yr 3) and Tarryn McRae who are ill at this time.

VOLUNTEER CELEBRATION: Friday 11th
A reminder to return reply slips by Monday 30th. We look forward to seeing our many volunteers on this day.

BYOD IPAD 2016 PORTAL
The parent portal for iPad purchases is still open, however your device may not be available until next year if you are ordering now. If you would like the iPad as a Christmas Present please purchase the iPad elsewhere. Beyond the Box are experiencing difficulties with having the cases sold separately on the portal and are requesting that all requests for this be made by phone on (03) 9372 8899 or by emailing Robert at robert@beyondthebox.com.au
If you have any questions about the program please email Susan on smillard@sfatarmeit.catholic.edu.au

THOMAS CARR SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP:
The Parents and Friends of Thomas Carr run a Second Hand Uniform Shop on a volunteer basis. The shop is open during term time only, each Thursday from 3.00pm to 4.00pm and is located in D3, in the Year 9 Centre. We have a large variety of second hand uniforms that can be purchased.
Good condition current uniform styles only can be left on consignment. All items must be clean and in good condition.
The shop’s last opening day will be Thursday 3rd December from 3pm - 4 pm but we are having a special opening on Thursday 21st January 9.30-12.30
Please note we only accept cash and cheque (no EFTPOS available).
For all enquiries please contact the P&F on 0491 115 115 or parentsandfriends@thomascarr.vic.edu.au

ST VINCENT de PAUL operates in the St James parish: providing support to families on low incomes. Christmas hampers will be delivered to families from 16th December. Contact our school office or the parish office on 9748 6800 if your family would benefit from this service.

THANK YOU for donating to the Tasmanian Devil—as you know last week’s newsletter mentioned the Tasmanian Devil and it’s nearly becoming extinct. One of the reasons is because of its facial tumor disease. So we asked you to kindly donate for them. Now we’ve made $67.55 from our school and we say THANK YOU! Jai and Sebastian

DATES
Nov 27: 3pm Advent Prayer
Nov 30: Dance rehearsals at St James
Dec 3: Celebration of Dance
Dec 10: Graduation mass
Dec 11: End of Year mass & Volunteer thank you
Dec 16: Last day of school for 2015

No 37 St Francis of Assisi