Another liturgical year has ended and we begin a new one with this season of Advent.

**ADVENT—WEEK 1**

Advent calls us to prepare our hearts and minds for the joyful celebration of the birth of Jesus. May this Advent bring new hope to our lives.

**We pray:**
Gracious Lord, fill our hearts with hope and faith so that we may be prepared to celebrate the birth of Jesus your Son. Inspire us through the words of the prophets to wait for him with joy and hope.

We ask this prayer in Jesus’ name. Amen.

---

**SFA GIVING TREE 2016**

To mark the beginning of Advent, we will soon put up our ‘Giving Tree’ which will be located in our sacred space in the Pace Centre.

The school community is asked to bring in items for those who may need some assistance this coming Christmas season. When items are brought to school, students will be given a decoration and an opportunity to help decorate our school ‘Giving Tree’.

We ask that the items are
- non-perishable food items
- new toys (for birth-12 year olds)
- toiletries
- items that may help families decorate their homes and/or table.

We will donate all items to St Vincent de Paul for distribution.

Items can be brought into school from week beginning 28th November until Friday, December 9th.

We thank you in advance for your generosity.

---

**STAFFING UPDATE**

This week Merle accepted a new position for 2017 at St Mary of the Cross PS, Point Cook. We are very sorry to be losing another of our foundation staff! We thank Merle very much for five wonderful years of teaching, service and commitment to our school community; and we wish her all the best as takes on this new challenge.

As a result of this move, we are still working on our placement of staff for 2017. We do know that our Prep teachers will be: Nadine, Mel & Em.
TECHNOLOGY NEWS

Year 3-6 BYO iPad Program 2017: It was great to see some of our Yr. 2 parents at our workshop last week. All parents of Yr 2 children should have received a booklet about our approach with last week’s newsletter. Copies of this can be found on the school website page ‘Digital Technologies at SFA’ under the Learning and Teaching menu. Parents wishing to purchase through our supplier need to do so by Wednesday, 30th November.

PARENTS OF STUDENTS IN YEARS 3-6: At school it is an expectation that students have ‘Messages’ disabled on their iPads as it is not a function that we want them to be using for communication. If you are allowing your child to use the Messages app at home please be aware that we have had a few issues arise with inappropriate things being said about others in group text messages. We have dealt with these at school but these incidents are happening while children are using their devices at home. Together we can support the children in making good choices around their interactions with others regardless of whether this is face to face or through the use of technology.

As Christmas looms large in the shopping centres, just a reminder that we ask that Christmas card giving is held off until children are finishing school for the year. The coming few weeks is a good time to prepare cards but part of the spirit of Advent is to WAIT. Please do not send candy canes or treats to school for giving out or sharing. Cards only.

SFA CHRISTMAS CAROLS UPDATE

THURSDAY
8th December
6.30pm
ST JAMES GYM

We have had a good response from parents in attending this celebration. Some parents have indicated 10 or more family members attending—please restrict family members to immediate family and grandparents otherwise we will not fit safely and comfortably in the gym. Your reply slip should have been returned by now.

Permission slips for the Carols rehearsal session on December 8th need to be returned as soon as possible.

YR 6 FAMILIES:
The Thomas Carr Parents and Friends run a 2nd hand uniform shop and we are open every Thursday from 3-4pm during the school term. We are having a special opening day on Saturday 26th November from 9am-12pm. If you have any enquiries please email us on: parentsandfriends@thomascarr.vic.edu.au.

Make me a channel of your peace;
Where there is sadness, let me bring joy.