ADVENT WEEK 2: Today’s gospel is a reminder to us that Advent is a season of preparation. In this case, the preparation is all about making way for the love of God in our lives. The love of God surrounds us all the time. It’s like a rapidly flowing stream and sometimes we have placed boulders in the stream that send the water flowing around us. The call to make a way for the Lord is a call to clear the rocks out of the stream; to remove the obstacles that are directing the love of God around us and allow it instead to flow directly through us. 

Come Lord Jesus

ADVENT GIVING TREE: 30th Nov-11th Dec
This tree is in the Yr2 area near our Advent & Christmas Sacred Space. Donations have been coming in and decorations are being placed on the tree—many thanks for your community building response!

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 home group teachers, children are given a decoration and they then place donations in the boxes provided, and take the opportunity to decorate the “Giving Tree”.

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.

CELEBRATION of DANCE
Our community’s end of year celebration of learning.
TONIGHT
Thursday 3rd December
7.15—9.30pm
Arrival time for students: 6.45pm
Raffle tickets will be on sale $1 each. Prize winners drawn on the night. A great range of prizes!

SPORTING NEWS
Congratulations to our SFA Hoop Time team who made it into Round 2 of the State Finals. A great effort to be in the top 24 schools of the 592 who entered the competition.

ADVENT GIVING TREE: Many thanks to All Green Nursery for the donation of our advent Giving Tree. We have already had a great response from families with donations for those in need in our community. Keep it up!
YEAR LEVEL ACTIVITIES: Yr 4-6 are off to CERES Brunswick on Tuesday 8th December while Yr 1’s will enjoy a Toy Incursion on Wednesday 9th December.

END of YEAR EVENTS
These last weeks of the school year have approached so fast!! Please note the following:

YR 6 GRADUATION is being held at St Francis on Thursday 10th December at 7pm. We congratulate our senior students as they celebrate this milestone and prepare to transition to Secondary College.

END of YEAR MASS & VOLUNTEER THANKYOU is being celebrated on Friday 11th December. We have so many blessings to give thanks for as we come to the end of our 4th year as a school community. We also farewell a number of families from our community. All families are invited to join us for the 9.15am mass. This will be followed by morning tea and a special thank you to all the volunteers who have supported us across this year.

WRITTEN REPORTS will be sent home on Monday 14th December. Remember that these will contain the progression points only. This information tells you the amount of progress your child has made since the last written report and how their standard of work compares with the expected standard. Staff are available to explain the reports if required. They should reflect your recent parent-student-teacher conversation.

YR 6 CELEBRATION DAY is Tuesday 15th December. They set off to Adventure Park to enjoy a day with friends and teachers.

LAST DAY OF TERM is Wednesday 16th December at our usual time: 3.20pm.

BUILDING UPDATE: Stage 3 is progressing well and is still scheduled to be completed (internally) by 18th December. Carpet is due to be laid shortly as well as pinboard to be installed. The outdoor area will include decking and synthetic grass areas as well as a concreted seating area. We are hoping this will be completed for the students return to school in February.

THOMAS CARR SECOND HAND UNIFORM SHOP: 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

PARISH NEWS:
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.

MSSP MISSION IN THE PHILIPPINES:
Thank you Parishioners and School Communities of St James the Apostle Parish.

Your prayers, love, dedication and generosity are gratefully received. Many children are benefitting from your support. We are growing in large numbers and we continue in our outreach of planting seeds of hope as we develop our ministry in education through the arts. We have provided formation, education and the purchasing of new instruments for the children.

May God bless you and your families as we approach the Season of Christmas.

Fr Jose Cremona mssp

DATES
Dec 10: Graduation mass
Dec 11: End of Year mass & Volunteer thank you
Dec 16: Last day of school for 2015