God, heavenly Father, look upon me and hear my prayer during this holy Season of Lent.
By the good works You inspire, help me to discipline my body and to be renewed in spirit.
Without You I can do nothing.
By Your Spirit help me to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your will.
Teach me to find new life through penance.
Keep me from sin, and help me live by Your commandment of love.
God of love, bring me back to You.
Send Your Spirit to make me strong in faith and active in good works.
May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness, open my heart to Your love, and prepare me for the coming feast of the Resurrection of Jesus.
Amen.

As we welcomed Autumn on Wednesday the dry and hot conditions of this long dry period have continued. Our oval and grounds are bare and farming land is parched as we await a decent autumn break.

A reminder to parents that there is a Parish Sacramental meeting for all parents wishing to enrol children. Parents are asked to attend an Info Session on one of the following days; The first meeting will be on Sunday March 6 after 10.30 Mass. The meeting will begin at 12.00 and will be held in the church. The second meeting will be held on Tuesday March 8 at 7pm in the church. Families wishing for their children to make the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation must enrol through the parish. Information on how to do so will be given at the Sacramental Information Sessions this Sunday and next Tuesday.

Two Cuddles from Courtney Buddy Benches have now been placed in the playground. The benches have been organised by Jodie Keast, to help children who are needing support to find a friend to play with in the playground. Already children are showing care and thoughtfulness in approaching children on the Buddy Bench. A copy of Jodie’s presentation to a special assembly last week is included.

On Monday March 7, Year 6 Leaders will participate in a Leadership Day facilitated by Unleashing Personal Potential, a Brisbane based organisation. They will present Aspire Higher with a focus on Engaging Leadership and Resilience Training. The day will be a valuable day of learning for our Year 6 students.

Last year, following work with Year 5 students a new model of Leadership was developed. The Leadership model included the creation of a Leadership motto SEE THE FUTURE, BE THE FUTURE. Students indicated that they were keen to engage in a number of leadership roles and responsibilities across the school. This year all students will be presented with a badge depicting their motto, these badges will be presented to students at their Leadership Day on Monday. A core team of 12 leaders – four school Leaders and eight House Leaders, will receive an additional badge and these will be presented at our next Assembly, March 18 @ 3pm.

This year we will again participate in the National Day Against Bullying on Friday March 18. The focus for OLR will be to explore various strategies to diffuse high emotions such as anger or frustration. Students in SEL classes this term have discussed and role played strategies to calm. A whole school assembly will be held on Friday March 18 at 2.45pm where classes will present their learning.

As a conclusion to our inquiry unit on Cultural Diversity students will share their learning as we celebrate Harmony Day on Monday March 21. For Australia, it is a day to celebrate our culturally diverse society. Classes will have a display of their understandings at an assembly on Monday March 21.

Thank you to parents and community members who supported our Garage Sale last week, there were many great bargains and happy customers. The money raised will go towards the Vegie Garden project.
Continued

The P& F have organised the first fundraising project for the year – a hot cross bun drive and a bulb drive. Please support each of these fundraisers. We are currently looking at a project for the P& F funds.

There was great excitement yesterday afternoon with the arrival of six Carlton Football club players. The players ran a skills based program for junior classes and a gave a leadership presentation to years 5 and 6. Thank you to Gabrielle Graham and Kristy Torney for coordinating the visit.

Jenny May is in Tasmania for a two day Principal Wellbeing conference we wish Jenny a valuable two days of learning.

Regards,
Belinda Ryan
Deputy Principal

Our Lady of the Rosary Parish Sacramental Information Sessions
Families wishing for their children to make the sacrament of Reconciliation, Eucharist or Confirmation must enrol through the parish. Information on how to do so will be given at the sacramental information sessions this Sunday and next Tuesday.

Sunday March 6 after 10.30am mass
Tuesday March 8 7pm @ the church

Information Sessions for all children committing to the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation will be held on these dates. All families need to attend ONE of these sessions please.
### Important Dates for your Calendar

#### General
- **March 7**  Monday       Year 6 Leadership Day
- **March 9**  Wednesday    Coin Train for Caritas
- **March 16**  Wednesday    Primary Parish School Board (PPSB) Meeting
  - Open forum for all parents
  - Focus: Sharing of the 2016 Annual Action Plan (AAP)
- **March 24**  Thursday     Term 1 Finishes
- **April 11**  Monday       Term 2 Starts
- **May 5**  Thursday        Parent Teacher Interviews
- **May 11**  Wednesday      School Photos
- **October 25/26/27/28**  Year 5 & 6 Canberra Camp
- **November 28/29**  Year 3 & 4 Camp

#### Sacramental
- **April 20**  Wednesday    Year 3 Reconciliation
- **May 15**  Sunday         Confirmation
- **July 23 & 24**  Saturday/Sunday First Eucharist

#### Masses
- **March 4**  Friday        Year 2 Mass
- **March 11**  Friday       Year 1 Mass
- **March 18**  Friday       Prep Mass
- **July 29**  Friday        Feast of Joachim and Anne
  - Grandparents Mass at school
- **October 7**  Friday      Our Lady of the Rosary Feast Day

#### Closure Days
- **June 3**  Friday         Staff Professional Development
- **August 11**  Thursday    Parent Teacher Interviews - TBC
- **October 31**  Monday     Staff Professional Development
- **November 1**  Tuesday     Staff Professional Development
- **November 2**  Wednesday   Kyneton Cup Day

**2017 Enrolment Process**
- **May 26**  Thursday       Open Day       Beginning of Enrolment Process
  - Enrolment Forms available from this date
- **June 2**  Thursday       Information Night
- **June 24**  Friday        Enrolment Forms for 2017 to be submitted
SEL - Social and Emotional Learning

Learning social and emotional skills in both home and school settings are as important as learning skills such as reading, writing, spelling and mathematics. Social and Emotional learning (SEL) is the process by which we learn to recognise and manage emotions, care about others, make good decisions, behave ethically and responsibly and develop positive relationships.

Through SEL children learn how to think, feel and behave to be a positive part of their home, school and community. Children learn to understand and be aware of their needs and the needs of others.

SEL teaches practical skills which children can learn and apply to everyday situations. Learning skills such as self-awareness, effective communication and conflict resolution can also help to prevent the development of mental health difficulties in children who might otherwise be vulnerable. In this way teaching children social and emotional skills helps to promote resilience – the capacity to cope and stay healthy in spite of the negative things that happen through life.

There are 5 areas of SEL which focus on developing skills for healthy living.

⇒ Self awareness – recognizing emotions, values, strengths and limitations
⇒ Social awareness – showing understanding and empathy for others
⇒ Self management – managing emotions and behaviours to achieve goals
⇒ Responsible decision making – making ethical, constructive choices about personal and social behaviour
⇒ Relationship Skills – forming positive relationships, team work, dealing effectively with conflict

There is a clear link between social and emotional awareness and enhanced learning outcomes. If children understand and manage their emotions, this has a positive impact on their learning, on their relationships and their capacity to function well in society.

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Attention all Health Care Card Holders

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF) commenced in 2015 for four years and will provide payments for eligible students to attend camps, sports and excursions. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card or temporary foster parents are eligible to apply. $125 per year is paid for eligible primary school students. Payments are made directly to the school and are tied to the student.

If you have a health care card you are eligible for $125 per child rebate. Forms have been emailed and are available at the office. If you do not contact the office we will assume you are not claiming this rebate. If you have any queries please contact Jodie as registration is closing shortly.
Again this year we are reaching out to those in need through our Project Compassion Donations.
We will continue to bring along our small donations for the classroom Project Compassion boxes.
Each class is encouraged to bring along some donations to fill their boxes.

**COIN TRAIL** - Last year our Coin Trail was a great success and we raised over $800.00.
We are hoping that again this year we can raise enough money to ensure a community receives the gift of education and therefore the gift of a changed life.
**The Coin Trail starts before school on Wednesday the 9th March.**
The children will place their coins down in their HOUSE COLOURS. Red, Gold, Blue or Green.
Last year Green was our winner so we know there will be some competition out there to try and beat them this year. Please send along the coins in a sealed bag or purse or come along and help out before school on the basketball courts.

Please take the time to read the following information which explains the underlying beliefs of Catholic Social Justice.
Also access some great videos suitable for different members of the family at Caritas Australia Website or just google Project Compassion 2016 Development cannot be limited to mere economic growth alone. In order to be authentic, it must be complete: integral, that is, it has to promote the good of every person and of the whole person."  

Pope Paul VI

Integral Human Development is grounded in the principles of Catholic Social Teaching, and promotes the dignity of the human person, equality between every person and the common good of all people in the community.

What does Integral Human Development look like?
- A life with dignity – where people are able to access basic services, are included in social, political and economic life. This empowers people with confidence to make changes in their own lives
- Just and peaceful relationships – by addressing power, equity and conflict issues, people can feel safe within their family and community, and actively engage in community activities
- Sustained economic wellbeing and resilience – where people have access to resources necessary for life for themselves and their family
- Influence and independence – by improving the ability to access information and resources, people should be able to influence attitudes and decisions that affect their lives

Caritas Australia is committed to serving people who are vulnerable to extreme poverty and marginalisation. We work with people regardless of religious, political or cultural beliefs.
Our development approach is to support whole communities, rather than sponsor individuals. A village well, a community school, a trained primary health worker — these can all help to improve life for everyone.
Caritas Australia also works in partnership with the Australian Government, with some of our programs supported by Australian Aid.
We are also a partner of the Australian Council for International Development and the Catholic Alliance for International Development to maximise collaborative international development work across Australia.
It is not just a question of eliminating hunger and reducing poverty... it involves building a human community where men can live truly human lives...
Cuddles from Courtney Buddy Benches

Courtney was a student at OLR from her first day as a Prep until she graduated in Year 6. Courtney loved school and she was one of the School Captains in 2013. Courtney was a girl that was happiest when everyone around her was happy too. She liked everyone to have friends and she wanted to be friends with everyone. But Courtney also understood that sometimes it wasn’t that easy for some children. When she could, she included them in her playtime and encouraged others to widen their circle of friends – quite a hard thing to do for any child.

It’s because of this, that when I saw Buddy Benches I thought of Courtney immediately. These are something that could embody what Courtney was all about. The buddy bench is a simple idea to help eliminate loneliness and foster friendships on the playground.

The people that care about our children and cared about Courtney have donated to make these benches possible. So there are many families that have helped these benches become a part of our school yard.

Cuddles from Courtney will continue to work towards bringing happiness to all children, in all different ways.

Jodie

Community

Kyneton footy girls under 12’s Friday nights - we need more players!!
Contact Colin Cameron - coach - 0439541346 Happy to car pool if needed

‘Konichiwa!’ – a focus on Japan for Cultural Diversity Week

There’s more to Japanese culture than sumo, sushi and samurai, as you’ll find out during Macedon Ranges’ Cultural Diversity Week. This statewide celebration is aimed at promoting harmony, understanding and acceptance of a multicultural community and, seeing as the Macedon Ranges has a Sister City Agreement with Tokai City Council, we are focussing this year’s events around Japanese culture. The program of events will run from Tuesday 15 March to Friday 18 March in and around Kyneton and there’s lots for people of all ages to enjoy.

Events include:
- A Culture Bunka Exhibition at the Kyneton Museum celebrating Japan’s unique culture, including colourful kimonos, traditional and contemporary ceramics and kitsch items from Japanese pop-culture
- An exhibition of traditional Japanese items from the Japanese Foundation in Sydney
- A multicultural film festival
- Taiko drumming and dance performance
- Tokai Culture Association, Tokai International Association and Tokai Dance Preservation Society showcase of calligraphy, sword dance, folk songs, a kimono wearing experience, paper cutouts and Tsumami-zaiku (making traditional Japanese crafts).

For further information visit www.mrsc.vic.gov.au/cultural-diversity or call 5422 0333.
Walk of Witness
The Combined Christian Churches (Kyneton) will hold a “Walk of Witness” on Good Friday beginning at 10.30am.
Everyone is warmly invited to meet at St Paul’s Anglican Church.

Reconciliation
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
<td>Sacrament of Reconciliation (2nd Rite) (Trentham)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>7.30pm</td>
<td>Sacrament of Reconciliation (2nd Rite) Kyneton</td>
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Holy Thursday
7.00pm  Mass of the Last Supper (Trentham)
7.30pm  Mass of the Last Supper (Kyneton)

Good Friday
10.30am  Walk of Witness: Combined Churches of Kyneton
3.00pm  Celebration of the Lord’s Passion (Kyneton) & (Trentham)

Holy Saturday Easter Vigil Mass
8.00pm  Kyneton

Easter Sunday Masses
8.30am  St. Mary Magdalen’s  Trentham
9.00am  St. Malachy’s  Blackwood
10.30am  Our Lady of the Rosary  Kyneton

Bags Needed
This year the Mother’s Day stall is asking for donations of any used gift bags or brown paper bags with handles that you may be able to spare. We will be grateful for any colour or type but no bigger than A4 size & in good condition please.
Gift bags can be dropped into the office.
Once again items for sale on the stall will be sourced from Oxfam & locally from Windarring & other Kyneton businesses.
The Mother’s Day stall will be co-ordinated by the P&F on Friday May 6.
More info to follow.

Free Cuppas
Don’t forget that every Friday from 3pm the canteen is open to parents/friends for a free cuppa and raisin toast.