Today is the feast honouring the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Sacred Heart of Jesus symbolizes the infinite and everlasting love of God for all His children. As a Franciscan School we emphasise this simple message to the children: **GOD IS LOVE**. Everything else we teach the children about God stems from this basic belief. God loves us so much that he created and gifted this wonderful world for us. God loves us so much that he sent his son Jesus to live amongst us in human form to share in our joys and sufferings and to teach us about this love. God loves us so much that he bestows his grace upon us even if we don’t deserve it. God loves us so much that he will always forgive us no matter what. God loves us so much that Jesus instituted the Eucharist. God loves us so much that Jesus died on the cross for us. God’s love is all around us and in us.

God’s outpouring of his love for us demands a flow on effect in that, as Christians, we are called to be instruments of God’s love to others. Through us, God’s love continues to flow and our kindness and love for our brothers and sisters flows back to the Father. The image of a fountain of love flowing from God, through Jesus and in turn through us to others is a good visual. On the feast of the Sacred Heart, we are reminded of this ‘flow of love’ and encouraged to do what we can to alleviate the needs of those less fortunate. To this end we collect food for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society on and around the Feast of the Sacred Heart. Thank you to all families who generously donated goods to this appeal.

**Sacramental Celebrations**

Last Sunday we were privileged to witness our students receive the Sacrament of Eucharist for the first time. The children were extremely well-prepared and understood the significance of the day was beyond question. The children approached the altar with reverence and solemnity and their faces told the story of how much this gift of Jesus himself meant to them. Children’s education in faith is a partnership between parents, as the first faith educators of children, and the school and I would like to thank all involved for the preparation of the children for this special day: parents, grandparents, teachers Kate Comperatore, Narelle Mazarella, Leon Milograd and Fr Andrew. The beauty of the Sacrament of Eucharist is that it can be received over and over again. As the children’s faith journey continues, we need to commit ourselves to ensuring that they have the opportunity to nourish their faith on a regular basis through attendance at Mass – and not just school masses.

Tonight the Sacrament of Confirmation will be bestowed on our Year Six Students by Archbishop Hart. Confirmation is the final Sacrament of Initiation and requires the candidates to confirm their faith and their baptismal promises that we made on their behalf by their parents and Godparents at their baptism. Tonight the candidates will be sealed with the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: Knowledge, Understanding, Right Judgement, Wisdom, Courage, Wonder and Awe, and Reverence.

Please pray for the children that the Holy Spirit will journey with them throughout their lives and that His gifts will become manifest through their actions. I would like to share some of the reflections that the children in Year Six wrote regarding their Confirmation.

**Audrey Haratsis**

“To me, Confirmation means that I am confirming myself into the Church and the Catholic community. Confirmation also means that I believe in one Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and that I am willing to preach the Word of God and live a life like Christ. I believe that through Confirmation I am receiving the Holy Spirit and engaging with God’s Grace (love in action).”

To me Confirmation means being closer to God and blessed by the Holy Spirit. I am confirming that I want to stay Catholic. I am also confirming my commitment to God. In Confirmation I receive the grace to live out my faith fearlessly. I will receive seven gifts.

Alessia Granato

Confirmation is my final step in becoming a full member of the Catholic Church. To me Confirmation means having a full faith in God and that he will always love me even if I don’t deserve it. To me Confirmation means using all the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help me in the decisions I need to be a good Catholic. It means living a life full of faith and hope in God.

Joshua Conversano

Confirmation is a sacrament of Initiation. Confirmation is about confirming our baptism and we will commit to living the Gospels. Confirmation is when you grow closer to God and keep doing what God wants us to do. I feel like Confirmation means a lot to us in our Catholic lives. It is our choice to keep building onto our faith so that we become closer to God. God has given us an invitation to turn towards Him.

Cindy Nguyen

Confirmation means to me, being sealed with the gifts of the Holy Spirit for the rest of my life. It’s the next step in my Catholic journey, not a graduation. I want to be confirmed so I can use my gifts to help others and the Catholic community. After I have been confirmed I will use my gifts to empower others and pursue my Catholic faith.

Joel Saxton

I truly believe that Confirmation is a way for me to show God that I truly love Him. Baptism might have just been my parents’ decision but now I can decide that this Church is right for me. I also believe that through this sacrament I can receive God’s grace and overall become closer to Him. Confirmation is a very big deal. It’s not just about a party but the ceremony and the meaning, the very deep meaning.

Olivia Thompson

Confirmation means to me, being sealed by the Holy Spirit for the rest of my life. It’s the next step in my Catholic journey, not a graduation. I want to be confirmed so I can use my gifts to help others and the Catholic community. After I have been confirmed I will use my gifts to empower others and pursue my Catholic faith.

Aidan O’Neill

To me Confirmation means that I am completing what my parents started at my Baptism. It means that I have sealed my faith and I will be a full member of the Catholic Church. It also means that I will be sealed by the Holy Spirit. I want to be confirmed because I will always have my faith with me, even next year and the years after that. I want to be confirmed so that I can truly use the gifts that I was given at my Baptism. I couldn’t use them at the time because I was only a baby and I was unaware of what I had been given. Now that I am older, I fully understand what I have been given and I will not waste them. After I am confirmed I will use the gifts of the Holy Spirit to help people. I will follow in Jesus’ footsteps to do the right thing and be a good person.

Alyssa Renda.

It is our prayer that the children will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit as the make their commitment of faith this evening.

Peace and all good.
Anne Doherty
Principal
P & F Meetings
Below are the Our Lady of the Nativity School Parents and Friends meeting dates for 2015:

Monday 20th July    7.30pm
Monday 17th August    7.30pm
Monday 12th September    7.30pm
Monday 19th October    7.30pm
Monday 16th November    AGM

Meetings commence at 7:30pm and are held in the school staff room. All are welcome!

Sacramental Lunch
On Thursday 25th June, 2015, the Grade 3 & 6 students will be having a lunch to help celebrate their next step in the sacramental life.
We are calling for parent helpers to help before and during the lunch.
Feel free to contact Mary Zivkovic (0409 054 876) or Vicki Tsoukalas (0421 054 876) if you are able to help out on this day for our children.

Piety Stall
The piety stall is open with many religious items, images and icons, together with gifts for communion and confirmation. A range of cards available including communion and confirmation cards. Please make use of this initiative by the Legion of Mary in our parish.

Reminder—Contact Details
Could we please ask all readers, extraordinary ministers of communion, cleaners, altar society volunteers and all those who do the great work to keep the parish alive and kicking, to email us at the parish email essendonwest@cam.org.au so that the new rosters can be emailed to you. This will help in saving postage costs and certainly an easier way to stay in touch. Thank you those who have done so already and thanks so much for your help and assistance in this matter. On Thursday

THIS WEEK AT OUR LADY OF THE NATIVITY
MONDAY 15th June
TUESDAY 16th June
7.30pm St Vincent De Paul meet in Presbytery
WEDNESDAY 17th June
9.00am Legion of Mary meet in the Presbytery
THURSDAY 18th June
FRIDAY 19th June
SATURDAY 20th June

Mowing Roster

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<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Area 1-</th>
<th>Area 2-</th>
<th>Area 3-</th>
<th>Area 4-</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Presbytery</td>
<td>Church</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Car Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>TWO</td>
<td>20-Jun-15</td>
<td>Hughes</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Schembri</td>
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Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF)

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund will ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance will be paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions, or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student will be:

- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

How to Apply
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Closing Date
You should lodge a CSEF application form at the school by 26 June 2015.

For more information about the CSEF visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
**Church Welcoming Family - Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where:</th>
<th>Our Lady of Nativity Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When:</td>
<td>Saturday Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What to Do:**

Father would like the rostered family to arrive about 15 mins before mass commences to hand out the mass bulletins and song books to all the parishioners as they enter the Church, and to say "Welcome to Mass" with a lovely smile. Your children can also get involved. The Mass bulletins will be available in the church when you get there. If you can’t do your rotation, please arrange to swap with another family.

*All families are welcome to join us in Church.*

**Any questions:** Lynette Xerri - 0408 573 045 / Lynettexerri@nbnco.com.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Saturday, 6 June</th>
<th>Saturday, 13 June</th>
<th>Saturday, 20 June</th>
<th>Saturday, 27 June</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family to assist:</td>
<td>Sheehy &amp; O’Neal Family (Loretta &amp; Kevin)</td>
<td>Di Santo Family (Maria and Joe)</td>
<td>Kerr Family (Kylie &amp; Gavin)</td>
<td>Massimino Family (Caroline &amp; Carlo)</td>
</tr>
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**Church Welcoming Family - Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where:</th>
<th>Our Lady of Nativity Church</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When:</td>
<td>Sunday Morning</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time:</td>
<td>10am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**What to Do:**

Father would like the rostered family to arrive about 15 mins before mass commences to hand out the mass bulletins and song books to all the parishioners as they enter the Church, and to say "Welcome to Mass” with a lovely smile. Your children can also get involved. The Mass bulletins will be available in the church when you get there. If you can’t do your rotation, please arrange to swap with another family.

*All families are welcome to join us in Church.*

**Any questions:** Lynette Xerri - 0408 573 045 / Lynettexerri@nbnco.com.au

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>Sunday, 7 June</th>
<th>Sunday, 14 June</th>
<th>Sunday, 21 June</th>
<th>Sunday, 28 June</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family to assist:</td>
<td>Whiting Family (Alice &amp; Paul)</td>
<td>Bezizza &amp; Munter Family (Janet &amp; Rob)</td>
<td>Augello Family (Carmela &amp; Joe)</td>
<td>Asher Family (Leanne &amp; Wayne)</td>
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</tbody>
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