FROM THE PRINCIPAL

As we progress through the season of Lent it is important to think of those things in our life that truly matter. For the next few weeks I will be offering the words of Sister Joan Chittister, a Benedictine nun who is renowned as an author and speaker.

The Heart—A good person produces good from the treasure of the heart

Everything we do in life, the Scripture reminds us, goes into the treasury of the heart. The ideas with which we fill our hearts determine the way we live our lives. Those are the things we draw on in those moments when we need to reach down deep inside ourselves for character, courage, endurance and hope. That's why what we read, what we see, and what we do from day to day counts so much in life.

The heart is not an arrow. It is an amalgam of magnets, all pulling in different directions. It is commitment to family, commitment to self, commitment to success, commitment to life, commitment to God, commitment to security, commitment to approval - all jangled and knotted and demanding.

Goodness is the ability to choose one over the other when it counts.

And when does it really count? It counts when someone else's life will suffer if we do not muster the courage to make the right choice in this situation at this time in this place.

The onetime Buddhist patriarch of Cambodia, Maha Ghosananda, saw his entire family killed by the Khmer Rouge. And he is the one who initiated the Walks for Peace through the Khmer Rouge countryside in the hope of bringing the country to reconciliation. Now that's goodness.

Courage can be a hidden virtue. Faith can be personal. Goodness is the kind of character trait, however, that cannot be practiced alone. Goodness requires a public posture. To be good you have to be good to someone else. And most essential of all, perhaps, to the nature of goodness is the fact that not to choose—not to get involved, not to decide, not to bother - is the most serious choice of all.  

Sr Joan Chittister

Michael Croke

Pure and Good
How silently and brilliantly the lamp in the Sanctuary burns.....when the oil is pure and good; it is only when it is otherwise that it twinkles and makes noise.

Catherine McAuley 1778-1841
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

**Student of the Week:** Congratulations to the following children who were awarded student of the week: Jack Collins, Tyse Rolston, Thomas Tancred, Brydon Sherwood, Juliyat Jojo, Jackson Plante, Aweil Malual, Alex O'Brien, Mark Jachi, Montanna Johns, Lucy O'Malley, Max Hunter, Emma Kennedy, Ethan Kenney, Chloe Jaques, Tara Robertson, Manyol Kual, Sophie Tyquin, Tom Hogben, Millie O'Brien & Emilie Shields.

**Whole School Assembly:**
Our next Whole School Assembly will be presented by Year 1 on the 4th April at 12.00pm in Kenna Hall. All welcome.

**Diocesan Winter Sports Trials:** We wish the children in Year 6 and the Rugby League 11 years boys from Year 5 the best of luck when they trial for Bathurst Diocesan teams in winter sports at Bathurst on Friday 4th April.

**McAuley Athletics:** The K-6 Athletics Carnival will be held at Norton Park at James Sheahan on Monday 31st March. The finals for field events for students in Years 3-6 have been held at school. Please check the school website on Monday Morning to check for details of changes if the inclement weather continues or the ground is too wet.

**Change To Pastoral Care, Student Welfare & Behaviour Management Policy:** As mentioned in a previous newsletter there have been some changes to the Catherine McAuley Pastoral Care, Student Welfare & Behaviour Management Policy. The changes will be explained at the end of the Share Cloud Parent Meeting on Thursday 3rd April. Copies of the policy will be available at the meeting.

The major changes are:

- **Rewards Day - Term 1, 2 & 3:** At the end of Term 1, 2 & 3 any child who has not been on Level Two for that term joins in a grade reward decided by the teachers. Examples of an end of term reward are a movie in the classroom, extra play an ice block a trip to the park for lunch etc.

- **End of Year Reward:** At the end of the year any child who has not been on Level Four OR has not received 10 level One’s OR 3 level Two’s throughout the year joins in a grade reward decided by the teachers. If a teacher or member of the executive is concerned about a student’s behaviour the student may be placed on a contract signed by the teacher / parent / child / member of the executive stipulating the circumstance that they will miss the reward even though they have not reached the required levels to be exempt. Examples of an end of year reward are a movie at the theatre, a day at the park, Botanic Gardens, pool day, ten pin bowling etc.

- **House Point System:** Beginning next term we will have a house points system. Children will receive a point for excellent behavior, consistently following rules, helping others etc. The point will go to their house. At the end of each term house points will be tallied by the sports captains and the house with the most points will be announced House Champions for the term. When a child has ten points they will receive a special certificate.

**BYNG STREET ROAD CLOSURE:** The council has informed the school that:
Byng St will be closed between Sale & Hill Streets on the **school side** Monday 7th April from 9.00am – 3.00pm and on the **other side** of the road on Tuesday 8th April from 7.00am – 4.00pm. Later in the week they will be working on Byng St between Hill and Clinton Streets. These dates may change if the work takes longer. Please be aware that there will be disruption to Byng St near McAuley School for the week beginning April 7th.

Steve Maguire
**Lent:** It is so easy for those of us who were born with sight to take our world for granted, but for the beggar in St John’s Gospel this week to be given sight for the first time in his life by Jesus, it must have been truly a miraculous gift. St John relates his story, not to show Jesus’ power, but rather to open our minds to ‘see’ that God’s work may be done through us. Often we miss seeing the work of God, such as a beautiful sunrise, or someone reaching out to help another, as we are so caught up in all we have to do. Through this story, we are brought to an understanding that God is at work, all day, every day, in those all around us. Perhaps this week we could take a moment to stop and open our eyes to really see some of God’s work.

**Class Liturgies:** Today Year 5 celebrated a lovely Grade Mass on the theme of Project Compassion. Thank you to all who were able to join them. This was the last of our Grade celebrations for this term. Our next celebration will be in preparation for the Holy Week and Easter (which fall in the School Holidays). The ‘Way of the Cross’ will take place in Kenna Hall on the last day of term (Fri. 11th April – time to be confirmed). Families and friends are most welcome to join us for this Holy Week Activity. More information will be given next week.

**Project Compassion:** As we are fast approaching the end of term, we would appreciate the return of the Project Compassion boxes. Ideally, we would like to count the money and have it banked prior to the holidays, therefore getting this money to those who need it quickly. Thank you for continuing to support this wonderful cause, and for encouraging your children to contribute to those who need their help.

Wishing you a great week,

God Bless,

Robyn Petty

**INTERESTING FACT OF THE WEEK**

‘Forty’ is the only number in English that has its letters in alphabetical order.
FROM THE PRIMARY COORDINATOR

Athletics Carnival—Monday 31st March

All children will attend the Athletics Carnival next Monday 31st March. Infants children will attend the Athletics Carnival for the morning only. We have been in consultation with James Sheahan Catholic High School about the condition of the Norton Park field and have been advised that should we have too much rain over the weekend, the Western side of the field may be too wet. This will effect our infants children's events and we may need to cancel these events should we have further rain. If the carnival is cancelled or should the field be too wet for the infants children, there will be normal classes at school. Any changes will be posted on the school website by 9:00am at www.mcauleyorange.catholic.edu.au

Google Apps

The school will be holding an information evening on Thursday 3rd April at 7pm in The Sr Clare Murphy Room. The educational benefits of such a system will be presented at this session, along with information regarding the safety nets put in place by the School and the CEO.

FROM FR PAUL DEVITT

Audio System Upgrade – St Mary's Church
Late last year we upgraded the audio system in St Mary's Church at a cost of $32,000. This new system will be of advantage to all users of St Mary's over many years – for Masses, baptisms, weddings, funerals, etc. Costs such as these are met by the parishioners who contribute to the Planned Giving Programme in the Parish. There are only 389 of these givers. There are many more users of St Mary's Church than 389 people. Would you consider making a 'one-off' donation to the parish to help share the financial burden of this cost a little more widely? Every little bit helps.

If you can help out, please drop your donation in to the parish office (84 Hill Street) or in the mail (PO Box 44) or you can donate via internet banking. Our parish bank details are:
BSB: 032 814
Account No: 321993
Orange Parish
Reference: SJO <your surname>

The English Elm – St Joseph's Presbytery front yard
After noticing external decay, cracks and cavities in this tree earlier this year, I commissioned a professional arborist to give me a report on the condition of the tree. I am particularly aware that this tree stands above a major school bus interchange at which children from many Orange schools gather twice a day on each school day of the year. Unfortunately the news is not good. Part of that report reads:

“A simple exploration of a basal cavity revealed an enormous hole in the tree at ground level. This hole, created by decay causing pathogens is of great concern as it undermines the structure and soundness of a very large tree. Trees can cope and survive up to 80% loss of heartwood and continue to grow with outward appearances of a healthy tree. However the weight and windsail of a healthy canopy against a compromised structure can be disastrous. ...

To mitigate the potential hazards, the tree could be pollarded and allowed to recover with a managed canopy. The problem here is that large wounds will be created in a tree already rotting, and decay will undoubtedly spread. ...

The safest option sadly is to remove the tree and plant a replacement.”

I sought the opinion of another arborist, some local gardeners who know trees well, and I asked the views of the Parish Finance and Maintenance Committee and they all concurred with the original report and its conclusions.

If the tree was out in a field somewhere, we could let it die a natural death. As it is in such a high pedestrian traffic area, and with the possibility that it could shed its limbs as it rots further, I have no option but to have it removed and eventually replaced with another tree.

Fr Paul Devitt
On Monday, 17th March Year 4 were lucky enough to experience a whole day incursion on British Colonisation of Australia in 1788. It was held in Kenna hall and the students enjoyed learning more about life in the Colony and dressing up in clothes of the colonial era. Below are some comments from the Year 4 students:

What did you learn from the Colonisation Show?

I learnt that some people had to trick a tradesman in England into working at Botany Bay because they needed top class tradesmen. First they would drug the tradesman and then plant something on him that was stolen. Then the tradesman would be found guilty and sent to Botany Bay. Jose 4T

I learnt that the people back in 1788 did not get treated like they should have been treated. The soldiers were very mean to the convicts back in those days. The Sergeant did not like the convicts one little bit. They had chains all around them. Beth 4T

I learnt that the 12th ship of the first fleet was called the Hyena (it turned around and went back) and I also learnt that they made candles out of animal fat. Kate 4T

What did you enjoy about the show?

I enjoyed how the lady, known as Fowles, kept making silly jokes and pick pocketed the Sergeant’s pocket watch without him knowing. I also enjoyed the play that they did and how the Sergeant sang the songs. Ellie K 4S

I enjoyed the parts when they asked us to do little plays. I would recommend the show for next year because it is fun and funny to watch. Mackenzie 4S

I enjoyed the lady Fowle’s accent. It was very much like an English lady’s voice. I also like how we were allowed to get up and have a go at things. Some of us got to act out a play and sometimes we were allowed to hold props that the convicts and soldiers used and try on clothes that the convicts wore. Marley 4T

I liked that we could all dress up and sing songs. It was like I was really in the First Fleet. Abby J 4G

I enjoyed the part where they showed us how to “trick a tradesman” and I liked the songs too! Darcy 4G

I enjoyed dressing up and acting and getting involved with the show. The actors were very funny and very good. Hugh Vaughan 4G

What would you change about the show?

I would change the Sergeants mood. He was too grumpy and should have been happy like Fowles. Also there would be more actors, like having convicts in the show. Ryan 4T

I would change the show by making Sergeant Kennedy chop a dummy’s head, arms and legs off to see if his sword was really real! Tate Rowland 4S
MUSIC & DRAMA

IT'S PLAYTIME!
The Year 5 children will be performing their class plays, "The World Cooking Championships", this Thursday 27th in the Clare Murphy Room. The children are looking forward to presenting their work after weeks of rehearsal. Parents and friends are most welcome. Parents need to enter the Sr Clare Murphy Room via the back doors. Please note there will be no access through the library. Times are as below:

5C - 10.55am  5W - 12.45pm  5H - 2.45pm

The Year 6 students are also nearing their performances next Wednesday 2nd April and Thursday 3rd April as below:

Wednesday 2nd April:  6P - 12.45pm  6C - 2.45pm
Thursday 3rd April:   6H - 10.45am

BIRTHDAYS

Happy Birthday to the following children: Wendy Ou Yang, Amelia Lieben, Persephanie Coghlan, Jorja Scott-Robertson, Callum Wilcox, Ella Jones, Lucy O'Malley, Cody Burcher, Charli Hobbs, Jose Pantoja-Tito, Joshua Karbowiak

TUCKSHOP

Roster—Commencing Monday 31st March to Friday 4th April, 2014

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<th>Day</th>
<th>9.30am—11.30am</th>
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<td>A Ward</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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Orange City Junior Rugby Union Club

Seeking Players for 2014 season
For Our U13’s and U17’s teams

For further details
http://orangecityjuniors.rugbynet.com.au

Tony: 0435025181