Jesus didn’t promise his friends that they would have an easy life. He did promise them that they would have eternal life if they believed in him, though.

God, I know that some days are up and some days are down. I don’t ask you to make them perfect. Just give me enough grace to get through knowing that you love me always. I can’t get through the good days or bad days without your help, love, and support.
On the weekend we celebrated the Feast of the Ascension of the Lord. Jesus spoke to his disciples saying:

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations...teach them to carry out everything I have commanded you. And know that I am with you always, even till the end of the earth.”

With these words, Jesus is speaking to all parents and teachers everywhere. We have responded to Jesus’ call to teach our children in his name. That is what you have done by enrolling your child in this Catholic school. With such great reassurance, we are told that we are not alone. Christ is always with us, no matter how hard at times it is to be a parent or a teacher. Though he is not here in bodily form, he is here with us in the Spirit and his grace is constantly poured out on us in the sacraments and in prayer. Look back on your experiences and ask God to show you where God has been with you and thank God for his presence throughout our lives.

On Friday I was honoured to attend the funeral of Mr Barry Scott. I was touched by the outpouring of support for Barry’s family and the huge numbers of people who came to pay their respects and bid Barry a final farewell. It was very comforting to feel the presence of God in the people gathered together in prayer. This is a real example of God’s promise to be with us always.

Thank you to the wonderful parents and friends who provided slices and cakes for the funeral. You are a fantastic community. Your containers are available for collection at school. Marie was very touched and grateful for your support in this way and for the cards of sympathy the children made for their much loved reading helper.

The Festival of the Fleeces is a celebration of Merriwa and its people. We encourage you to help your child join in the fun. Our mission statement at St Joseph’s states that we will celebrate all that is good in our school, community and world. Saturday’s parade is a great opportunity to practise this. The students are very eager to get into the school float and parade together on Saturday. All we ask is that they try to wear red socks with white or creamed coloured clothing if possible. Red socks of course are the signature feature of the Merriwa Festival of the Fleeces.

What fun a group of dedicated parents are having preparing our giant sheep for the festival parade. The ladies have tried to convince me that they are not at all crafty but I do not believe them. The staff presented them with an idea, a dream in fact and the parents have turned it into a bleating reality! The sheep’s head is almost complete and you can have a preview in the MacKillop Room. There is still more to do and any parents, grandparents or friends that can operate a sewing machine are invited to come to school this week and help sew the body of the sheep. It is a simple task now but will take a few hours to sew. There are also some woolly head pieces to glue together for the students to wear in the float.

Our festival display is once again featured in the Merriwa Newsagency window. Please take time to look as your child’s craft is featured in this year’s display. Thank you to all the teachers for their work on this display.

Kindergarten enrolments are being sought for 2015 at St Joseph’s Merriwa. Please encourage anyone you know who has a child of Kindergarten age to collect an enrolment package from the office as soon as possible or to ring me and register their intent. Planning for 2015 is well underway and kindergarten numbers will impact on this planning.

St Joseph’s Aberdeen enables our parents to have Catholic education from K-12. There is a small number of vacancies for Year 7 in 2015. Our school students will gain automatic acceptance...
(ie no interview required) however places are at a premium so if you would like to enrol your child next year contact Mary Cook at Aberdeen on 65437444 now.

The athletics carnival will be held this Friday. Thank you to the parents who have offered their help on the day and for those helping with the field events on Wednesday. Please remember that NSW health law prohibits smoking at sporting venues, this includes spectator areas and car parks at sporting venues. We thank you for considering the health of our students by refraining from smoking in their vicinity.

Congratulations to the school community for its generous support of the Asthma fundraiser held recently. It was a warm and cozy sight to see the entire school community arrive at school in PJs. The children paid a gold coin for the opportunity to dress snuggly and the canteen also donated the proceeds of lunch for the day. In total $335 was raised for research into asthma. As asthma is the most common illness suffered by our students we thought this was a very worthwhile cause. Thank you to the Year 6 leaders for suggesting and coordinating the day.

Year 6 students are wearing a bottle green t-shirt on sports day. Have you noticed? This is their Year 6 leaders’ shirt and the current Year 6 class is the first to have theirs organised in time to wear it for three terms of the year. They are very proud and enthusiastic leaders of our school. Well done Year 6 and Mr Morris.

The pupil free day last fortnight was a very worthwhile Mathematics learning experience for all the teachers. Here are some teacher reflections on what they learned on the day:

- **Interesting ways to differentiate Mathematics activities to cater for all levels of learning in the classroom.**
- **New activities that incorporate most of the working mathematically outcomes.** Eg: Making 10, SNAP, Mabble, Hundred’s Chart, Magic Square, the number caterpillar, problem solving questions, jelly bean jar, graphic organisers, domino windows
- **Learned about the new syllabus and the focus of implementing problem solving activities**
- **Many games were demonstrated to illustrate various ways concepts can be consolidated with children.**
- **Reinforced the value of asking the students to reflect on their learning from the activities completed and think of twists to extend the students understanding and thus differentiate for the given level of each student.**

Educators, architects and learners met together in a conference in Adelaide last week. The focus was on how students learn and how best we can plan our learning spaces to maximise learning. This was definitely an exciting and productive use of my time. The teachers and I will be looking closely at our current classroom and school design to see if we can make adjustments to increase the opportunities for learning. I will speak in more detail about the conference at the coming P&F meetings. I took lots of photos to share with you, from the school visits over the 3 days, but my new phone/camera has remained in South Australia and I am hoping an honest, good Samaritan will return it very soon!

Appropriate parent behaviour at school is very much appreciated. We work hard to ensure St Joseph’s is a safe and caring environment for all its members. I ask that parents remain mindful of this in their conversations around the school and refrain from using bad language and speaking ill of other people. We endeavour to work with you in modelling Christian values at all times.

St Joey’s chooks have had some generous expressions of interest for weekend care. If you have not got around to responding and would like to give your child the opportunity to care for the chooks at school, please let me know asap. The full details of this offer are in the last newsletter.

Parents are asked to drop and collect their children from the school side of the street for their safety. If you need to use the opposite side please turn off your car and walk your child into school. The hill is a very blind spot and small children are not always great judges of traffic hazards. We also remind you that morning supervision commences at 8.30am. Children dropped off before this time will be required to sit in the office foyer until playground supervision commences.

*Helen Whale*
Congratulations to the following award winners:

Kindergarten
Peter Hagley – setting a good example to his class mates and always being ready to learn!
Sam Grady – being very reverent in Mass on Friday.
William Collins – a great effort in Literacy groups

1/2
Sienna Baber - great work in maths
Roy Lawler - using great listening skills
Riley Telfer - terrific work visualising maths problems
Paddy Wong - great participation in sport
Ava Peel - fantastic improvement in all areas
Christian Cropper - enthusiasm on the Railway Museum excursion

3/4
Jorji Taffe - a terrific effort at the Regional Spelling Bee
Dylan Turner - great predicting skills in literacy
Amy Redgate - excellent leadership skills in group work
Will Henderson - working well in Maths groups

5/6
Jemma Grady – a fine performance at the Regional Spelling Bee
Rhys Turner - being an excellent collaborator in English lessons
Matthew Wilkins – being able to use coordinates and direction when reading a map
Ty Riley – working and collaborating well on English tasks

Playground Champion:
Riley Melmeth – always being involved in playground activities
Grace Booth – being kind and friendly on the playground

Principal’s Awards:
Chloe Towel, Rebecca Keegan, Tia Magner & Jorji Taffee - these girls have actively demonstrated how to be a good friend and treat others with respect and dignity
Christian Cropper for being an environmental champion by picking up rubbish around the grounds.

Happy Birthday to the following members of our school community who will be celebrating their birthday in the next two weeks...
Next Wednesday 11th June, Year 6 will sit the **Year 6 RE Test**. The test will consist of 50 multiple choice questions and cover content taught during years 3-6 as well as responses to the Mass. Just as with the NAPLAN results the school receives a report which we use for future planning and areas for improvement. Below are some examples of questions used in previous years.

1) The word ‘Emmanuel’ means
   A. Journey in hope
   B. Mother of God
   C. God with us
   D. Jesus

2) What did Jesus do at the Wedding Feast at Cana?
   A. He raised Lazarus from the dead
   B. He changed the wine into water
   C. He changed the water into wine
   D. He healed the crippled man

3) The world leader of the Catholic Church is known as the
   A. Dean
   B. Deacon
   C. Pope
   D. Cardinal

**PENTECOST REMINDER**

This weekend we celebrate the **Feast of Pentecost** which is often called the birthday of the Church. It is the day that the Holy Spirit came amongst the disciples of Jesus and empowered them to go and do the will of God. It is often symbolised by fire. The disciples were challenged to go out and spread the Good News of Jesus and with the Holy Spirit’s help and guidance they were able to do this. This is also a challenge for us.

We are encouraging you all to come and celebrate the birthday of the Church with us and wear something red. Mass this weekend is celebrated on Sunday morning at 8:30am. Stay for a cuppa and have a piece of birthday cake with us!

*Anne Marie Peebles*
RE Coordinator
Do you know of someone having a struggle and in need of some moral support or has cause for great celebration?

The St Joseph's P&F now has a volunteer pastoral contact for such times. If you know of someone in this situation, call or email Megan Moore (6548 2992 or 0400 653446 or email rmbcdmoo@bigpond.net.au). Let Megan know if one of our community has good news to celebrate such as a new baby, or sadness such as illness or death in the family. Sometimes a card or call from P&F is enough to let someone know we care.

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**Thank you!**

I would like to say thank you to the person that handed in my watch to the office. I really appreciated it.

Thank you

Thomas Hunt

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**EMAIL ADDRESSES**

Do we have your current email address on our records? We are continuing our efforts to save paper and help preserve the environment and would like to email the school newsletter and other correspondence to as many families as possible. If you have email facilities, please send your details to Sally at admin@merriwa.catholic.edu.au

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**Nutrition Snippet**

**The simplest way**

...to use leftovers in the lunchbox

Leftovers are an easy way to pack your kids a nutritious lunch, whilst clearing out the fridge.

Your kids will love these tasty leftovers and their lunch box will be sure to come home empty.

Try some of these ideas:

- Cottage pie or spag bol sandwiches - both taste great on wholemeal bread
- Healthy fried rice or stir-frys are a fun alternative to a sandwich
- Turn leftover veggies into a frittata
- Add leftover baked veg to a sandwich or use steamed sweet potato or pumpkin as a sandwich spread with cheese (then add your favourite salad).

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For more information visit www.eatittobeatit.com.au or join us at facebook.com/eatittobeatit
ST JOSEPH’S P&F CAMPDRAFT & FETE MEETING
THURSDAY 5TH JUNE
6.30PM
MERRIWA RSL CLUB
ALL WELCOME

St Joseph’s P & F Campdraft & Fete
would like to thank all of our generous
SPONSORS

Major Sponsor 2014
MERRIWA ENGINEERING

Gold Sponsor
HUNTER MUTUAL
Merriwa Branch

Silver Sponsors
Landmark Townsend
Merriwa Pharmacy
Mrs Dianne Ninness
Mr Bill Reynolds

Bronze Sponsors
Anthea Wright
Chapman & Slattery
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Precious Pieces
Russell’s Earthmoving
Meriden Limousines

Plus...a big thanks to all our
Product & Prize Sponsors
Mark Palmer - ‘El Condo’ ASH service
Stan Bowd Custom Made Saddlery - bridle
AQHA - hi point Quarter Horse rug
ASHA - hi point Stock Horse rug
RM Property & Livestock - trophies
Australian National Maritime Museum - family pass
Australian Reptile Park - family pass
Taronga Western Plains Zoo - family pass
Coolmore Stud - caps

& to our ‘silent sponsors’
you know who you are
& we sincerely THANKYOU!
Next P&F meeting
Annual General Meeting
14th July 2014
at 4.30pm
in the MacKillop Room

Please come along and have a say in your children’s school life. Babysitting by a teacher in the classroom at school is available on the nights of meetings.

P & F would like to thank our recent Canteen Helpers — Lucy Johnson, Jenny Johnson, Sally Hagley & Sarah Booth.

Calling all plants lovers....

Donations are needed for the PLANT STALL at the School Campdraft & Fete fundraiser on Saturday 28th June, 2014.

We are seeking cuttings, seedlings, bulbs, shrubs, divided clumps, succulents and cacti for the stall.

Have a look around your garden and see if you can help.

Colleen

CANTEN ROSTER
6 June Heidi Grady & Fiona Wightman
11 June Megan Moore & Sarah Booth
18 June Emma Henderson & Mel Bates
25 June Katie Thompson & Scott Beaven

BUS ROSTER
7/8 June Collins family
14/15 June Constable family
21/22 June Hunt family
July holidays Martin family

THANK YOU... to the Brown/Redman family who gave up some of their valuable time to clean the Aberdeen Bus in recent weeks.

Cake/Niknak Bottle Stall

This year I volunteered to organise the cake stall and I am looking forward to this great day.

What I am seeking is your yummy homemade cooking.

Also niknak jars that can be filled with NEW little toys, pencils, rubbers etc. The niknak bottle/jars were very popular last year.

I will also need volunteers to man the stall with me on the day.

If you would like to help, please text or ring with the time that will suit.

No pressure but every little bit of help counts.

Thank you.

Megan Towell
0400 697788