



NEWSLETTER

No. 8 Date: 09/12/2019 Week 9 Term 4

Dear St Thomas Aquinas Families,

Sunday 1 December marked the beginning of the Liturgical Year and the start of ADVENT. This liturgical season consists of four Sundays starting with Sunday closest to November 30th.

The word advent is derived from the Latin "adventus" which means "coming" or "arrival." During the Roman Empire, the word adventus referred to the arrival of a person of dignity and great power – a king or emperor. For Christians, Advent is the time when we prepare for the threefold coming of Jesus Christ – past, present, and future.

In the song Living Proof by the American artist Bruce Springsteen, he sings about the transformational joy of discovering the purity of LOVE as he watches the birth of his first child. Any parent who has been present at the nativity of their child can certainly relate to this life-changing event.

**Well now on a summer night, oh in a dusky room
Come a little piece of the Lord's undying light
Crying like he swallowed the fiery moon
In his mother's arms it was all the beauty I could take
Like the missing words to some prayer that I could never make
Oh, in a world so hard and dirty so fouled and confused
Searching for a little bit of God's mercy
I found living proof**

Advent reminds us that God's living proof of Himself was not done in an abstract way but through the reality of His incarnation as a fledgling baby.

As Christians our mission is to bring the message of Christ to others in our daily encounters in real and practical applications of the Good News. As St Francis says, "Preach the Gospel at all times, and if necessary use words". By doing so we touch the heart of the meaning of the Christmas season.

The Franciscan priest Richard Rohr says, God comes to us disguised as our lives. In other words, are we able to recognise the incarnate God not just as an historical figure but also through our encounter with others? Like the Magi, are we looking for God in the right places? Do we recognise God in others particularly in moments of life that encompass compassion as well as joy?

On Friday 6 December we came together as a school community to mark the beginning of Advent with a beautiful and reverent liturgical celebration. Through scripture, drama and music the students, parents and staff prayed to enter into this season of preparation for the birth of Christ. During the liturgy two members of the local St Vincent De Paul Society, Toni and Paul Condon were able to speak to us about how we can assist their charity work at this time of the year to help those in our community in real need.

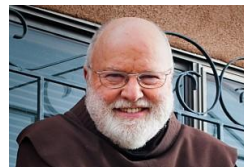
Wishing all the blessings of the Advent season and may we recognise the Christ-child as He arrives in our lives each day with our heart, head and hands.

Until next time,

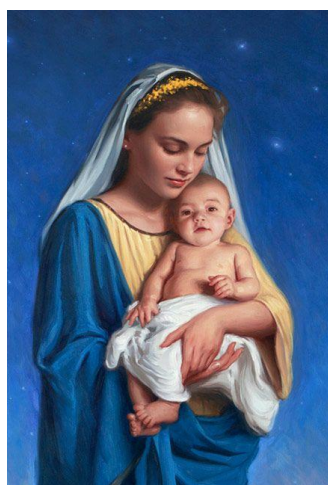
S Rosato

Sergio Rosato
Principal

Fr Richard Rohr is a Franciscan priest of the New Mexico Province and founder of the Centre for action and Contemplation in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Fr Richard's teaching is grounded in the Franciscan alternative orthodoxy-practices of contemplation, expressing itself in radical compassion, particularly for the socially marginalised.



It is through living out being Christ to each other, that we touch the heart of the meaning of the festive season.



**Our Lady of the Sothorn Cross
by Paul Newton**

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α: 168 Hawkesbury Rd Springwood 2777 | p: 02 4723 3800 | f: 02 4723 3899

www.stthomas.parra.catholic.edu.au | Parish Priest: Father Paul Slyney

Staff News 2020

As previously communicated CEDP have appointed Marina Hardy as Principal of St Thomas Aquinas commencing at the beginning of 2020. Marina is currently the Principal of Holy Cross Primary School at Glenwood and will bring her vast experience in education and her many gifts to this school community. We warmly welcome Marina to this faith community.

Marina Hardy will head a leadership team comprising of the following current staff:

- **Genevieve Smith** – Assistant Principal
- **Virginia Fortunat** – Religious Education Coordinator
- **Kate MacKenzie, James Costigan** and **Michelle Nightingale** – Leaders of Learning

Blanche Hortense (Classroom Teacher Year 6) – Ms Hortense will be undertaking full time tertiary study during 2020.

Ms Hortense will however be returning to St Thomas Aquinas during next year in casual teaching capacity whilst she completes her studies. We wish Blanche every blessing as she leaves our school temporarily to commit her time, energy and focus to furthering her professional learning.

Ann Gippel (Specialist Sport Teacher) – Ann has been a longstanding teacher at St Thomas Aquinas. Over recent years she has assumed the important Sports teaching role at the school. She took on this role initially whilst our previous Sports Teacher, the late Robert Mullen, underwent treatment for leukemia. Ann is recognised by her colleagues for her humility, faith and dedication to teaching. Ann has indicated that she intends to scale down her work life and concentrate more on family, including her much loved grandchildren. We thank Ann for outstanding service to our school community and wish her every blessing for the future.

The role of Sports Teacher at St Thomas Aquinas in 2020 is **Simone Blattman**. Simone is a trained and experienced physical education teacher who has also recently coordinated this faculty in High School and has experience in teaching music. We welcome Simone to our school community and congratulate her on this appointment.

Deborah Orford (Leader of Diversity) – Deb's teaching career has spanned more than four decades and has included classroom teaching in a number of public, independent and Catholic schools. Prior to assuming the role of Diversity Leader at St Thomas, Mrs Orford was Vision Diversity Leader with CEDP supporting vision-impaired students in a number of schools across the Diocese of Parramatta. Deb leaves a wonderful legacy at this school in her expert and loving support and advocacy for students with diverse needs. Her ability to influence student growth in all areas is steeped in a passionate belief in the dignity of each child and her amazing capacity to include the "entire village" – parents, teachers and other professionals in the nurturing of children. We thank Deb for her many years of dedicated service to the teaching profession and wish her well as she dedicates herself in retirement to her many creative interests.

Kylie Williamson has been appointed to the permanent role in Diversity Education (as part of a Diversity Team) in 2020. Kylie is an accomplished and experienced teacher, including experience in Reading Recovery. We congratulate Kylie on her appointment to this vital position.

Joanne Godsell (Kindergarten Teacher) – Joanne has recently been appointed as class teacher at Our Lady of the Nativity School, Lawson. Joanne has been part of the Kindergarten teaching team at STA for a number of years and is highly valued for her dedication to teaching and her care of students. We wish Joanne every blessing on her new appointment and thank her sincerely for her service to our school community.



Ride and Stride for Catholic Mission

Thank you to all those who supported our Ride and Stride for Catholic Mission earlier this term. Approximately \$2015.00 was raised, which will be used to support Mr Alan Wedesweiler (REC St Canice's) and his son Gabriel (ex-student St Columba's College) as they travel to Cambodia in January to participate in an immersion experience and support local Catholic communities.

Virginia Fortunat, REC

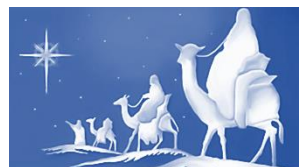
2019 Scholastic Book Fair

Thank you to all families for their wonderful support of Book Fair. We raised \$1812.00 from book sales and received \$535 worth of books from Scholastic. Funds raised will be used for purchasing new library books next year. **Karen Bousfield, Teacher Librarian**



Christmas Concert 2019 – A Christmas Mystery – Thursday 12 December at 7.00pm

A warm invitation is extended to all families to attend this special presentation next Thursday 12 December commencing at 7.00pm (weather permitting). The Concert seeks to retell the Christmas story through story, action, dance and song. It relies on the involvement of each grade to contribute. Whilst this is a busy time for families, we encourage the involvement of all our children. Please note that children from each grade are required to attend dressed in a specific theme (these are listed below). During the presentation the children are required to sit in their class groups under the supervision of their teachers. Families are encouraged to bring their own seating on the evening.



Students are asked to dress up in the following costumes/themes:

Kindergarten – Angels
Year 1 – Nativity Animals

Year 2 – Christmas Trees
Year 3 – Mary and Joseph

Year 4 – Innkeepers
Year 5 – Saints

Year 6 – Wise People

Aspect Concert Spectacular – Combined Western Sydney & Macarthur Schools

Last Wednesday a large audience of parents, family members and supporters attended the Combined Aspect Concert Spectacular held in the Evans Theatre, Penrith Panthers. Autism Spectrum Australia (Aspect) is Australia's largest national service provider for children on the Autism spectrum. St Thomas Aquinas has hosted a satellite class (K6A) at our school for almost a decade. Our satellite class is one of many hosted in both public and Catholic schools as part of Aspect Western Sydney School. Although funded and governed by Autism Spectrum Australia, the children and teachers in K6A belong to our school community. The presence of K6A at St Thomas' is a blessing and gift which enriches our community immeasurably.

The Concert on Wednesday evening provided over 200 students with an incredible opportunity to shine and demonstrate their abilities in performance and the creative arts. The performance by the children, based on a Disney theme, was truly inspiring, particularly for the families of the children who beamed with pride and joy.



Congratulations to the students of K6A who were stars on stage on Wednesday evening:

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Thomas Chapple | Ashton Cooper | Poppy Milroy | Noah Simmons | Andrew Young |
| Tyler Chapple | Alex Lopez | Ari-Kai Rawlings | Daniel Woods | Angus Young |

Congratulations also to the dedicated and caring staff of Aspect K6A for their care, creativity and hard work in making this opportunity a reality for the students:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| * Marie Gough | * Kerry Jones | * Deb Clark |
| * Melissa Luland | * Fiona Oliver | |

Old STA Bucket Hat Sale – Large size only!

We currently have in stock some of our older-style bucket hats in Large size available at the office for \$5.00 each. This size would fit some older students and even adults. Handy as a back-up hat. All current style bucket hats (S/S, S/M & L/XL sizes) and caps (one size fits all) are also available for \$15.00 each.



Updated Student Early Pick-up Procedures

Parents/carers collecting students early from the school are now required to inform office staff upon arrival of the student/s and from which class/es they are picking up so that they can be called to the office. Parents/carers must sign the student/s out from the green book as usual. This change of procedure aims to reduce disruption to classes during learning. Students arriving late must always be signed in at the office by a parent/carer and will be given a late ticket by office staff to give to the teacher.

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Student Awards

Congratulations to the following students, who received Merit Awards at the School Assemblies listed below. Well done on your efforts everyone – keep up the good work!



Week 10 Term 3

| | | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Violet Baker | Campbell Creamer | Abigail Larkin | Jacob Tan |
| Cooper Brown | Ashton Danks | Tom Larkin | Bella Ticehurst |
| Lachlan Brown | Stella Dean | Melissa Lee | Isabel Van Meeuwen |
| Luca Burchall | Cameron Dempsey | Benjamin Mathew | Tristan Wade-Ferrell |
| Emily Burke | Madeleine Devitt | Piper Mathieu | Tia White |
| Bonnie Butler | Dominique Dewhurst | Tess Morris | Megie Williamson |
| Max Carroll | Isabella Faithful | Bailey Nugent | Abigale Wilson |
| James Chalmers | Sophie Gough | Grace O'Brien | Ethan Windeisen |
| Elliott Chapman | Ava Huxley | Hunter Stephenson | Mia Withers |
| Thomas Chapple | Jordan Kime | Ruby Steward | Benjamin Younger |
| Tyler Chapple | | | |

Week 1 Term 4

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Max Bailey | Matthew Daw | Thomas Harris | Harrison Newport |
| Harley Baker | Matilda Debien | Luke Harrison | James Rafter |
| Miles Barker | Joshua Duck | Cameron Hickey | Jose Ramires |
| Tyler Bateman | Mikayla Fitzgerald | Amity Houlihan | Hunter Rawlings |
| Jonathan Bradshaw | Sullivan Forsyth | Wolfgang Hummel | Grace Ryan |
| Michael Broadhead | Max Friedland-Jaccoud | Harrison Iles | Jessica Sharp |
| Lara Buhs | Arabella Fuge | Maisie Lamont | Natasha Springett |
| Lucy Chapman | Summah Galea | Jack Leahy | Archer Sproule |
| Tyler Chapple | Isabella Glew | Lilia Lopes | Emily Stewart-Rowley |
| Lucas Claudino | Cooper Golby | Samuel McGrath | Hugo Strickland |
| Alannah Collins | Jessica Gomez | Samuel Moore | Rhys Walton |
| Anthony Daw | Blake Gough | Gela Moss | Angus Young |

Week 4 Term 4

| | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| Lani Abrahall | Annabelle Duck | Alexander Kerkham | Charlie Reid |
| Owen Adorini | Anna Edwards | Mavrick Konstantinoff | Abby Riddell |
| Myles Albury | Niamh Fagan | Maxwell Lovric | Ruby Roberts |
| Jamie Baber | Joe Fitzpatrick | Jessica Mace | Casey Ryan |
| Ethan Baddock | Callum Gibbons | Poppy Milroy | Noah Simmons |
| Edith Banks | Brendan Golby | Peter Moore | Angus St Clair |
| Annabell Barr | Kate Harrison | Sophie O'Neill | Amelia Steadman |
| Samantha Bourke | Ella Holdsworth | Lexi Owen | Millie Ticehurst |
| Ysobel Chalice | Amelie Hucknall | Bethany Paul | Baiden Tom |
| Luke Clunes | Evelyn Iles | Tobie Payens | Delilah Valle |
| Amelia Crouch | Piper Jeffers | Anneke Prineas | James Watson |
| Emily Daw | Will Jones | | |

Week 6 Term 4

| | | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| James Babbage | Isla Field | Will Lister | Eli Schroeder |
| Lillian Boncales | Ben Giannakis | Lexie Mackey | Oscar Smith |
| Leo Borg | Emily Hall | Joshua Mitchell | Amelia Steadman |
| Olivia Byrnes | April Harper | Sophie O'Neill | Abella Stewart-Rowley |
| Sophia Cantwell | James Hinchliff | Luke Pospischil | Jacob Tan |
| Lilly Chalice | Elle Hoppe | Abigail Power | Leonardo Tan |
| Alannah Collins | Kayden Jeffers | Trinity Power | Senna Valentini |
| Ashton Cooper | Kiara Kanigowski | Alana Prior | Adele Wade-Ferrell |
| Charlotte Creamer | Charlotte Kennedy | Olivia Prior | Romilly Wade-Ferrell |
| Lincoln Croft | Harry Kitching | Harrison Rae | Tristan Wade-Ferrell |
| Sienna Curley | Archie Lamont | Ari-Kai Rawlings | Lachlan Williamson |
| Ella Danks | Emily Leehy | Brooklyn Rawlings | Amy Withers |
| Ben Dawson | Annalise Lia | Will Rayner | Zachary Zalan-Pipe |
| Indyana Duffy | Angela Lin | Oliver Savage | |

Week 8 Term 4

| | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Lani Abrahall | Ashton Danks | Veronica Lloyd-Williams | Lachlan Sakey |
| Larissa An U | Jack Fuge | Alex Lopez | Patrick Seymour |
| Paul Anderson | Harry Ghata | Analise Mafi | Cade Smith |
| Selena Ballesteros | William Ghata | Joseph Mahns | Adam Springett |
| Carys Beaton | Peter Godsell | Ashton McLeod | Ryan Sykes |
| Jack Blattman | Myles Golby | Ella Mecham | Ava Tallon |
| Jacob Britton | Benjamin Gomez | Taya Moore | Oliver Toth |
| Kian Brown | Sam Graham | Ella North | Claire Thomas |
| Lucy Brown | Tom Grodzicki | Patrick Payens | Will Valentini |
| Tyler Chapple | Charles Hicks | Elyse Peat | Sienna Veriere |
| Zoe Cini | Alexis Hodge | Adrian Perez-Eaton | Aiden Wade-Ferrell |
| Ruanii Claudino | Erin Kenn | Maria Pochukaeva | Layla Watson |
| Mia Cooper | Lachlan Konwerski | William Rayner | Lola Whitsun-Jones |
| William Crighton | Abigail Krishna | Jessie Reynolds | Hayden Willingham |

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Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning

On **Wednesday 6 November** and **Wednesday 5 December**, the following students, nominated by their teachers attended the Principal's Morning Tea for Effort in Learning hosted by Mr Rosato. Congratulations to each student for your effort, attitude and persistence.



Wednesday 6 November

Lillian Boncales
Esme Brennan
Elysia Burchall
Olivia Byrnes
Alyssa Cantwell
Tyler Chapple

Alana Mathew
Gabriel Muradian
Keval Naidoo
Maria Pochukaeva
Trinity Power
Annabelle Priest

Tyson Ramires
Ruby Roberts
Mia Rodemark
Oliver Savage
Matilda Stephens
Janaya Teuma

Aiden Wade-Ferrell
Romily Wade-Ferrell
Tyler Walker
Mia Watson
Abigale Wilson
Angus Young

Ruanii Claudino
Alannah Collins
Kyle Delfsma
Indyana Duffy
Isabella Glew
Thomas Harris
Kate Harrison
Zachary Heaven
Payton Henson
James Hicks
Ella Hoppe
Isabelle Hummel
Elise Hurley
Ava Huxley
Emily Jones
Koby Kime
Jessica Mace
Maddison Machon
Summer Mamo



Wednesday 4 December

Oliver Ashtyn-Smith
Violet Baker
Edith Banks
Chloe Blattman
Gemma Boersma
Lucy Brown
Bonnie Butler

Kiahna Koutonikolis
Jack Leahy
Maxwell Lovric
Sienna Mathew
Bryden McLeod
Ash Meadows
Macklin Miall

Tess Morris
Elizabeth Mulhall
Harrison Newport
Elke Okladnikov
Erin Phelan
Brooklyn Rawlings
Hunter Rawlings

Noah Simmons
Adam Springett
Lachlan Steadman
Bella Ticehurst
Rhys Walton
Liam Willis
Andrew Young

Bella Cantrell
Dylan Cantwell
Enrique Caraballo
Lilly Chalice
Lucy Chapman
Zoe Cini
Alannah Collins
Dominique Dewhurst
Stella Donohue
Summah Galea
Leah Garvan
Audrey Godsell
Cooper Golby
Arwen Gordon
Michael Graham
Milla Grant
Ruby Hammond
Erin Kenn
Mavrick Konstantinoff



Catholic Out of School Hours Care (COSHC) at STA in 2020

We are excited to announce that STA will host a before and after school

care facility commencing in Term 1 2020. As with other COSHC centres currently operating in schools in the Parramatta Diocese the facility will be offering a caring environment for families in need of a convenient before and after school care or vacation care. Staffing, licencing and compliance of centres is facilitated by CEDP in collaboration with our school. Enrolment for COSHC is handled directly between families and the COSHC centre management. **All enquiries are to be directed to the email address below not to school staff.** Families wishing to enrol their child/ren in COSHC can click on the link provided here or email the centre directly at: coshcstthomasspringwood@parra.catholic.edu.au. Enrolment is **done online**. A small number of enrolment forms are available at the school office.



2020 COSHC
Enrolment Form V6.1

PARISH NEWS

St Thomas Aquinas Parish Presents – Carols in the Church

Wednesday 18 December, 2019 at 7.30pm (please be seated by 7.20pm) at St Thomas Aquinas Parish Church, 168 Hawkesbury Road, Springwood. Come and join us for an evening of carolling in preparation for Christmas. "He who sings, prays twice." *St Augustine*. Carolling is a wonderful Christmas tradition so come along! Will be followed by a light supper. Please contact **Chris Wilson** on **0425 290 952** for more information.

Christmas Eve at St Thomas Aquinas

Would your child like to be involved in the Christmas Eve Mass? Come to a **rehearsal in the Church on Monday 16 December at 3:30pm**. All children are encouraged to join us on Christmas Eve dressed as Angel or Shepherds. Mass begins **at 5.00pm**.

DIARY DATES

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| 2019 | Tuesday 10 December | 3.40pm Staff Meeting |
| TERM 4 | 11 | 8.30am Staff Briefing Kindergarten Restaurant Day |
| Week 9 | 12 | 8.30am Staff Prayer 7.00pm Christmas Concert |
| | 13 | 12.30pm Annual Awards Ceremony – in STA Church |
| | Monday 16 December | 12.00pm End of Year Mass – in STA Church 3.40pm Leadership Meeting |
| Week 10 | 17 | St Thomas Aquinas Spirit Day 12.00pm Meet the Teacher for 2020 7.00pm Year 6 Graduation Mass – in STA Church |
| | 18 | 8.30am Staff Briefing Year 6 Picnic Day at Darling Harbour Last Day for Students for 2019 |
| | 19 | STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY Last day for Staff for 2019 |
| CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS | | |
| 2020 | Monday 27 January | AUSTRALIA DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY |
| | 28 | Staff Only Commence 1.30pm MAI's K-6 |
| TERM 1 | 29 | K-6 MAI's |
| Week 1 | 30 | Grades 1-6 Students Commence Kindergarten MAI's Continue |
| | 31 | Kindergarten MAI's Continue |
| Week 2 | Monday 3 February | Kindergarten Commence |

COMMUNITY NOTICES

January 2020 School Holiday Library Program: Blue Mountains Library have a week of fantastic school holiday programs planned in January 2020: **Koi Fish Windsock Kites** - 21 Jan - Blaxland Library – 6 to 12 years; **Summer Tie-Dye** - 22 Jan - Katoomba Library – 6 to 12 years; **Colour Theory Workshop** - 22 Jan - Katoomba Library – 11 to 17 years; **Hat Design** - 23 Jan - Springwood Library/HUB – 6 to 12 years; **Rube Goldberg Machine** - 23 Jan - Springwood Library/HUB – 11 to 17 years. All workshops **cost \$6 per student** and can be booked and paid for in person at any of our library branches. To register for the workshops or for more information visit Blue Mountains Library at bmlibrary@bmcc.nsw.gov.au or library.bmcc.nsw.gov.au or in person at **104 Macquarie Road, Springwood, 2777** or phone **4723 5036**.

Glenbrook Ballet Theatre Ballet School 2020 Enrolment: Glenbrook Ballet School are taking enrolments for 2020. Classes for girls and boys 2 years and up, qualified and experienced teachers, individual attention to nurture talents, careful, correct and safe training with a growth mindset focus. Free uniform for all new enrolments (or fee discount to the value of \$60 where uniform not available). Visit the website at www.glenbrookballet.com.au or phone **0407 402 190** for more information.

Sent Home Recently:

- Staff Leave Continuing Note to 1S (pink)
- Kindergarten Restaurant Note (green)
- Christmas Concert Invitation (yellow)
- End of Year Dates Reminder Note
- The Midnight Gang Excursion Permission Note to Year 3
- SWOT Tennis Flyer to Years 3-6
- Year 6 Picnic Day Permission Note

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