February 9th 2015

Dear Parents and Families, Staff and Children

On Wednesday this week we celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. This is a title given to Mary following her appearances to a young girl Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes in France on a number of occasions during 1858. The message of Lourdes is that God never forgets the sick and suffering. Rather, God feels with the sick and suffering and extends a compassionate hand of comfort and support.

Wednesday is also the World Day of the Sick, a day introduced by Pope John Paul II twenty three years ago to highlight the special place that the sick and suffering should have in the hearts and actions of all Christians. We all share a responsibility to care for and support those who are in any kind of need, especially those suffering from any form of illness including mental illness and addiction. We are not to judge but after the example of Jesus to show compassion.

We know from the gospels that the sick and suffering occupied much of Jesus’ time and the greater number of the miracles Jesus worked involved sickness or physical difficulties such as blindness or the inability to walk. Jesus revealed by his words and actions the care and love God had for all these people, and we who are Christians are called to do the same – to reveal to the sick and suffering the love God has for them by our love and support.

In his message for the 2015 World Day of the Sick Pope Francis encourages us to spend time with the sick and suffering. Pope Francis tells us: “Take care of the sick and make time to visit them”. During this week it would be good to visit someone in our family or community who is unwell; or if they do not live close by to call them or send them a note of encouragement. When we do this we are revealing to them something of the love that God has for them. We are doing as Jesus did when he healed the sick and showed kindness to the neglected. We are also repeating the message of Mary at Lourdes where she left a visible reminder of this love of God for the sick and suffering in the healing waters.

Jesus and Mary bless all Santa Teresa families.

Yours sincerely
In JMJ

Br Daniel
(Principal)
Royal Surf Life Saving
Welcome to Peter and Tina from Royal Surf Life Saving who are conducting swimming lessons and lessons in water safety for all classes from Monday to Friday this week (February 9th – 13th). Children will need to bring their swimmers and a towel to school this week and will be accompanied to the pool by their teachers and Assistant Teachers/Tutors.

Calendars
Each family will receive today with the newsletter a calendar for 2015 from the Catholic Education Office.

Back to School Vouchers
With today’s newsletter is a form to sign and return to school so we are able to purchase resources (paper, pencils etc) from the Back to School Vouchers. These vouchers also assist with funding the Books in Home Programme and transport for excursions and sporting events.