February 16th 2015

Dear Parents and Families, Staff and Children

When Jesus healed people the healing frequently flowed on to others. In the Gospel read at Mass yesterday (Mark 1: 40 – 45) we heard the story of Jesus healing a man with leprosy. This was a terrible illness that meant the people with leprosy were forced to live apart from family and friends, and would often die alone with no one to care for them.

The same was the case for people with a disability (blindness, hearing loss etc) or suffering other illnesses that were not contagious but which people did not understand. These people were often abandoned by family and the community and were left without a home or someone to care for them. Many became beggars.

When Jesus healed these people he not only took away their sickness but Jesus also made it possible for them to return to their families and communities. Jesus helped people to see the goodness and worth in people who were ill or suffering, and they changed their attitude towards these people. His healing took away the suffering of one and more importantly changed the hearts of many others. One person was restored to health but a community also became stronger and better.

As the followers of Jesus we are also called to not only look after those who are sick and suffering but also to change the attitude of others towards them. Jesus accepted everyone and we are asked to do the same. Jesus does not want us to carry a grudge against anyone or to refuse to help someone in need because they are different from us or because we simply do not like them.

The season of Lent which begins this Wednesday is a special time to remember how important it is to care for others, especially those in any kind of need. We pray this week for the grace to have generous hearts that will bring healing to many through little acts of kindness.

Jesus and Mary bless all Santa Teresa families.

Yours sincerely

In JMJ

Br Daniel
(Principal)

Lord Jesus, inflame my heart with your love, and make me clean in body, mind and spirit. May I never doubt your love nor cease to tell others of your mercy and compassion.
Royal Surf Life Saving
Thank you to Peter and Bettina from Swimming Australia and RSLS who worked with the classes last week. They ran an excellent programme. Weekly swimming for all classes commences this Thursday and will continue each Thursday until week 9 (March 26th).

Back to School Vouchers
Thank you to the families who have returned the BSV forms. We would appreciate any outstanding forms returned this week please.

Ash Wednesday
This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and marks the beginning of Lent – forty days of preparation for the celebration of Holy Week and Easter. There will be a liturgy and Distribution of Ashes on Wednesday in the Shady commencing at 9.15am. All families are most welcome. Mass for Ash Wednesday will be in the Church at 5.30pm.

Congratulations
Congratulations to the following children who received awards at the assembly last Wednesday:
  Qwainsha Palmer (showing respect to others);
  Ashley Smith (being caring towards others);
  Duron Davis-Williams (tying his best);
  Kayme Lechleitner, Ciara Bloomfield & Campion Young (being strong and making good behavior choices);
  Victor Palmer (wearing his hearing hat);
  Shanara Lynch, JC Conway, Buddy Hayes, Claudia Oliver, Cornelius Cavanagh (being respectful towards others);
  Shemaiah Andalong (being respectful by listening to & following instructions);
  Karilila Meneri (being strong by working independently);
  Dwayne Huddlestone (being caring by looking after things);
  Kayne Lynch (being strong);
  Jacob Johnson (being strong by making good choices about behavior);
  Hayley Wallace (being respectful by encouraging others);
  Tahneya Ronson (being friendly by talking & smiling towards new teachers).

Year 5 enjoying their swimming lessons with Peter from Swimming Australia last week