

OLW NEWS 2017

Tel: 9460 6684

Email: principal@olwkingsbury.catholic.edu.au

Issue: 1 Date: Monday, February 6

Dear Parents & Families,

Welcome to the start of the 2017 School Year. It has been an extremely smooth start to the year with all students, including our new Preps, settling in very well today.

We welcome our new students Maya Jovevski, Maksim Joveski, Tavleen Bal and Molly Johnstone, and hope they enjoy a happy and productive time whilst at OLW. We also welcome Mrs. Lucy Van Ballegooy who has taken over the role of Physical Education teacher. Lucy has written a little blurb about herself that is included in today's newsletter.

SCHOOL APP

Our OLW School App information is attached to the newsletter. Parents can download the App to their iPhone, iPad, android, Mac or PC. Once you have downloaded 'Tiqbiz' and selected OLW from the Primary School section, just select the tabs appropriate to your child's class. During the year we will send out notifications keeping you connected to what's happening at OLW so please check and update your child's 2017 class level.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our School Captains and Vice Captains for 2017 were announced at the End of Year Mass last year. Kaleb Kozul and Jesse Wagner are our School Captains, and George Matsas and Isabella Paonessa are our Vice Captains. We congratulate them on their selection and wish them well in these important positions. In the next few weeks we will be calling for our senior students to nominate for the roles of House Captain and Vice-Captain, FIRE Carriers and SRC, and we hope to have these appointments made by the end of February.

SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAM

Our school swimming program commenced today for Years 3 – 6 and continues each Monday during Term 1

with a make-up session on Thursday March 23 due to the Labour Day Holiday.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Our whole school assembly takes place each MONDAY AFTERNOON at 3.10pm. This will enable parents to attend the Assembly prior to collecting their child. At Assembly we gather in Prayer which is led by the School Captains, and this is then followed by the presentation of Student Awards and general reminders. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

BEGINNING OF YEAR MASS

Our Beginning of Year Mass will be held this Friday, February 10, at 10.00am. Everyone is most welcome to join us in celebrating the start the school year.

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

If your child is attending the Before and/or After School Care Program please notify the school Office as soon as possible. We also keep a list of students who attend the Program, showing on what days of the week they attend. This reduces confusion and enables us to know where each child is after school.

We understand that in some cases there is casual use of the program, however we still need to have information from parents about the use of the program. Please return the form in this newsletter as soon as possible. If any families wish to access this Program, Enrolment Forms for OSC are available on line. Details are attached.

CONTACT & EMERGENCY DETAILS

If there is a change of address, mobile number, home phone number, work number, etc during the year please notify the office, as soon as possible so that our records can be updated in case of emergency.

Enjoy the start of a new and exciting school year!

Kevin Burke

OLW SCHOOL PRAYER

MARY OUR MOTHER,
YOU ARE THE MOTHER OF GOD,
THE MOTHER OF JESUS,
YOU CARED FOR HIM,
YOU REACH OUT AND CARE FOR US.
AS OUR MOTHER YOU ARE
A SPECIAL PERSON IN OUR LIVES.
HELP US TO WORK AND PLAY
HAPPILY TOGETHER.
SHOW US THE WAY
AND LEAD US TO JESUS
OUR LADY OF THE WAY PRAY FOR US

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Our Beginning of Year School Mass will be held on Friday, February 10th at 10.00am in the Parish Church. All families are most welcome to come and join in this celebration to mark the beginning of the school year.

Students from Year 1 – 6 will also be attending the Ash Wednesday Mass on Wednesday, March 1th at 10.00am. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of the Season of Lent and is a very important time in the Church year. All families are most welcome to join us in celebrating this Mass also.

SPORTING SCHOOLS PROGRAM

Extra-Curricular Sporting Schools Program for Term 1 will be on Tuesdays, starting February 14 and will run for 7 weeks ending Tuesday, March 28th. Time 3.45 to 4.45 p.m. for students in Years 1-6. Our sport this Term is Hockey.

Please complete the attached Permission and Medical Form for your child to participate and return the form to the office as soon as possible.

PHYS ED LESSONS

Physical Education lessons will be held on WEDNESDAY this year. Students are asked to wear their sports uniform and runners each WEDNESDAY.

OLW BUCKET SYSTEM (INFORMATION SENT / RECEIVED FROM / FOR ALL PARENTS)

At OLW, every classroom has OLW bucket. The bucket system is used for transferring all money, messages, notes to the office or teachers, etc, that your child brings to school on specific days. At the beginning of the day the classroom bucket is sent to the office for the correspondence, messages, money, etc to be dealt with. Before the final school bell the buckets are collected from the office and all receipts, replies, newsletters, etc are taken back to the classrooms. We feel this is a great starting point for children to learn about responsibilities, and less interruption at the office.

Please encourage children to place all messages, etc into OLW classroom buckets.

LATE ARRIVALS / EARLY LEAVERS SIGN – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

We ask all parents to sign this book if your child has arrived late at school, leaving during school hours for appointments or leaving school early. This book is kept at the front office.

Thank you.

MEDICATION REGISTER BOOK:

At Our Lady of the Way, we are required by law to have a medication register book. When your child requires medication, we require a parent / guardian to fill out this book on what medication your child requires and when the medication is required. This must be completed every day your child requires medication.

If your child is sick and you cannot sign the register book your child will need to remain at home.

SCHOOL PHOTOS



Our Lady of the Way school photo day will be on TUESDAY, MARCH 14 More details will follow.

2017 FAMILY SCHOOL FEES

2017 FAMILY SCHOOL FEE will be: \$1350.00 per family.

The breakdown of the Fee is:-FAMILY FEE \$1200.00 REFURBISHMENT \$100.00 WORKING BEE \$50.00

(Please note that \$50.00 will still be refunded if families attend at least one Working Bee during the year.)

STUDENT LEVY FEE

In 2017 the Student Levy per child will be \$380.00

The Levy cost covers programs such as the swimming program, excursions, incursions, Phys Ed equipment and Art materials etc.

As always, families are able to pay by direct deposit, credit card, eftpos, cash or cheque. Families who wish to set up a payment plan are most welcome to contact the school office to organise this with Anna. Our banking details are listed below for those who wish to set up their own internet banking. Please include your eldest child's full name as the reference.

School Banking Details:

Bank: National Australia Bank Ltd

BSB: 083 347

Account No: 691378781

Also Enclosed is a Direct Debit Request Form. – An Authorised Form to pay school fees electronically.

If you have any concerns with the school fees or payments, please let the office know so that an appointment can be arranged with the principal.

SCHOOL LUNCHES

The Red Door shop will supply and deliver lunches to the school. Families will need to go to the shop and order their child's lunch for the day.

BE SUNSMART – WEAR A HAT!

The School Hat must be worn during Term 1 and in Term 4. Children who do not have a school hat are asked to sit under the verandah at recess and Lunchtime. (i.e. No Hat, No Play)

CSEF - CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURIONS FUND

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card you may be eligible for CSEF. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is \$125 for primary school students.

Please complete the attached application form and return to the office with your concession card no later than February 29th.

PARENTS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION NEWS

We have some great things planned for 2017. This year we have updated our February 5c challenge to a Silver Coin Challenge. The decision to change to the Silver Coin Challenge was due to feedback from parents as part of our fundraising review at the end of last year.

FEBRUARY SILVER COIN CHALLENGE

To start the year off we will be running our Silver Coin Classroom fundraising challenge in the month of February. Bring to school all the 5, 10 and 20 cent pieces you have been saving or collecting.

The class who raises the most money will receive the perpetual trophy and a free hot chip lunch. Who will be the winning classroom this year?

ICY POLES

Icy poles will be sold during lunchtime on MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS for Term 1 commencing this Thursday. The cost of an icy pole is 50 cents.

BEFORE / AFTER CARE REPLY SLIP: Please return this reply slip before Monday, February 13. Yes, my child / children will use the after school care / before school care on: PLEASE TICK (✓) **MONDAY** A.M..... P.M..... P.M..... **TUESDAY** A.M..... A.M..... P.M..... **WEDNESDAY** P.M..... **THURSDAY** A.M..... **FRIDAY** A.M..... P.M..... FAMILY SURNAME:

CHIKD/REN:

SIGNATURE:

OLW 2	2017 SCHOOL CALENDAR
	FEBRUARY
MON 6	SWIMMING
FRI 10	BEGINNING OF SCHOOL
	YEAR MASS 10.00 AM
	EXCEL MUSIC
	PRESENTATION
MON 13	SWIMMING
TUE 14	SPORTING SCHOOLS
	PROGRAM BEGINS
WED 15	PARENT HELPER
	REFRESHER TRAINING
FRI 17	MUSIC LESSONS BEGIN
MON 20	SWIMMING
TUE 21	SPORTING SCHOOLS
	PROGRAM
MON 27	SWIMMING
TUE 28	SPORTING SCHOOLS
	PROGRAM
	MARCH
WED 1	ASH WEDNESDAY
	SWIMMING
WED 8	DISTRICT ATHLETICS
	NEW HELPER TRAINING
MON 13	LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY
TUE 14	SCHOOL PHOTO DAY
WED 15	FIRE CARRIER DAY
MON 20	SWIMMING
WED 22	NEW HELPER TRAINING
THUR 23	SWIMMING
SUM 26	FIRST EUCHARIST
	COMMITMENT MASS

LITERACY NEWS

PARENT HELPER REFRESHER TRAINING

All currently trained parent helpers who wish to assist in our Literacy Sessions in 2015 are required to attend a Refresher training session on Wednesday February 15 from 9.00 - 10.30am.

NEW PARENT HELPER TRAINING

New **Parent** Helper **Training** commences on Wednesday March 8 and continues on Wednesday March 22 from 9.00 - 10.30am. Any parents who would like to assist in the classroom need to attend the two sessions.

If Parents are unable to attend the Refresher or New Parent Training sessions in Term 1, a second round of sessions will be repeated early in term 2 on dates to be advised. Please complete the response form attached to today's newsletter if you wish to be a Parent Helper in 2017.

Allison Luff (Literacy Leader)

PARENT HELPER TRAINING RESPONSE FORM
Refresher Training:
I will be attending the Parent Helper Refresher Training on Wednesday February 15.
Eldest child's name
Eldest child's grade
Contact No:
New Parent Helpers:
I will be
attending the New Parent Helper Program on Wednesday March 8 & March 22.
Eldest child's name
Eldest child's grade
Contact No:



A note from the Physical Education Department.

Welcome back!

I hope all Our Lady of the Way staff, students and parents had a safe, enjoyable and active summer break!!

My name is Mrs Van Ballegooy and I have the honor and privilege to be your Physical Education teacher for 2017!



I am looking forward to a fantastic year, meeting so many new faces and enjoying many sporting experiences and opportunities!

I can't wait to being Physical Education classes and to meet you all!







Footwear, Hats and Sunnies

Just a reminder for students to wear protective and **supportive shoes** for Physical Education/sport and their **hat**. Please try to Slip Slop Slap especially on Phys Ed and sporting days!

Slip Slop Slap Seek Slide











Sporting opportunities in 2017

There are many sporting opportunities in 2015 including a variety of house events such as cross- country, athletics, district events, and many more!

There are several leadership positions available to Year Six students including house captain positions, which will be announced shortly.

All the best for a fabulous 2017!

Mrs Lucy Van Ballegooy Physical Education



CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student's eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 - Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or nongovernment Victorian primary or secondary school must:

- · on the first day of Term one, or;
- on the first day of Term two;
 - a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder. OR
 - b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
 - c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.
- * A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (30 January 2017) or term two (18 April 2017).

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.
- · Secondary school student rate: \$225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child's school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student's date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

NOTE: ALL SECTIONS MUST BE COMPLETED BY PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN

- 1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
 - Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
 - If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.
- 2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
- 3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible. The CSEF program for 2017 closes on 30 June, 2017.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.

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School Name	School RE	F ID
Parent/legal guardian details		
Surname		
First name		
Address		
Town/suburb	State	Postcode
Contact number		
Centrelink pensioner concession OR H	OR	N)
Foster parent* OR Veterans a	•	
*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary car	e order letter from the Department of Hea	alth and Human Services (DHHS).
Student details		
Child's surname Child's virst		Date of birth Year level
I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DE1 customer details and concession card status in order to ena authorise the Australian Government Department of Human S	able the business to determine if I qualify	for a concession, rebate or service. I a
I understand that: • DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm r	my eligibility for the Camps. Sports and Exc	ursions Fund and will disclose to DET
personal information including my name, address, payment	and concession card type and status.	
 this consent, once signed, remains valid white my child is enr. I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and Excursions Fund can be determined. 		
 if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide precursions Fund provided by DET. 	proof of my circumstances/details, I may r	not be eligible for the Camps, Sports a
information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports Human Services and /or State Schools Relief for the purpose	and Excursions Fund may be disclosed t se of evaluating concession card services	to the Victorian Department of Health are or confirming eligibility for assistance.
		y errors be corrected, by contacting your
child's school.	•	

Sporting Schools 2016 Permission and Medical Form.

This information is intended to assist the school in case of any medical emergency with your child. All information is held in confidence.

Child's name:	••••••		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
Date of Birth:	•••••	•••••		School year:
Parent's/Guardian's Ful	l Nan	ne:	,	
Address:				Post Code:
Emergency telephone: (Scho	ol hours)		Contact name:
Name and address of far	nily	doctor:		
Medicare Number:	•••••	•••••		
Medical/Hospital Insura	nce I	und:		Contribution Number:
Please tick if your child Diabetes Dizzy spells Travel sickness Other: Allergies to:		Blackouts Migraine Asthma	0	Fits of any type Heart condition
Penicillin:	•••••		Other dru	ıgs:
Any foods:			Other:	
What special care is reco	omm	ended?		
with your child's name, appropriate for your childiabetes) it must be with	aking ne of hand the d ld to the l	medication, dos. ed to the teacher osage to be take carry their own to knowledge and a	age, etc. in charge and wh medicatio approval have	e prior to leaving. All containers must be labelled ten it should be taken. If it is necessary or on (for example asthma puffers and insulin for of both the teacher in charge and yourself. Tread the attached outline of the Sporting Schools
to participate in this acti	vity.			nission for my child
behalf such medical assi	stanc	e as he/she may	reasonab	I authorise the obtaining, on my oly require. I accept all operative, blood transfusion y for payment of all expenses incurred.
Name:				Name:
Signature:				Signature:
Date:				Date:

We're using an app to communicate with you.

We are now using an app to send instant messages, newsletters and notices.

The tiqbiz app will help our school keep parents fully informed and up-to-date with newsletters, notices, news and events. It's easy to use and also has the benefit of helping reduce our paper consumption by printing less.

The first step is to download tiqbiz to your phone, tablet, computer.... or all of them.

Search for: tiqbiz







Important: Click 'allow' notifications when asked. This is to allow your school to send you important alert notices.

Once installed, follow the steps on the next page to tick on our school.



Find and tick our school



Open tiqbiz and register/log-in.



Find our school

Click the 'Find' icon and type our school name into the search bar. You will now see our school boxes.



Tick on

Click on the grey tick beside our school box and any other boxes that apply to you. When the tick turns green, you're connected.



Click on the Inbox icon. This is where you will receive our instant messages, newsletters, notices and calendar events.

Technical Support 9am-5pm Mon-Fri (AEST)

(03) 9800 1489 SA (08) 8121 5651 (08) 9467 5780 NSW (02) 8091 6826 WA

QLD (07) 5641 4565 Email team@tiqbiz.com





PAYING SCHOOL FEES ELECTRONICALLY

How does it work?

(CDF), on behalf of your School, to deduct periodically Direct Debiting allows the Catholic Development Fund from your account an agreed amount to cover your School Fees and Levies.

Benefits to You

problems with cheques left in school bags or the worry of charges. One less major bill to worry about and it is free. difficult task of budgeting for annual school fees and It can save you time, money and hassles. No more CDF believes that this will assist families with the sending cash.

Benefits to School

administration. CDF guarantees complete confidentiality banking funds will be greatly reduced, assisting school Transmission occurs automatically and is secure as no cash changes hands. The process of counting and on behalf of your School.

How to Apply

- Complete the attached Authorisation form (Part "A") and Direct Debit Request form.
 - Sign both forms and return to the School office.
- The School will complete Part "B" and forward all completed forms to CDF (allow 14 days for CDF processing).

Variations

If you wish to alter the amount being transferred or cancel the authority, just advise your school. Normal bank charges may apply, eg. dishonour fees if you have insufficient funds in your bank account.

Passbook accounts are not suitable for direct debiting institution to establish if your account is suitable for direct debiting to occur. Credit card accounts and You will need to contact your bank or financial

December 2002

AUTHORISATION FORM

New Authority Amendment (please ' appropriate box)

Part "A" (Parent to complete)

Date ///	authorise the Catholic Development Fund to arrange for	ing the account, as described in the Direct Debit Request	of \$. (minimum transaction	
	authorise the Cat	ing the account, a	with the sum of \$	out \$20.001

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(For joint accounts, two signatures are required) Sign here

Date Part "B" (School to complete)

School CDF Account No.

The above amount to be credited to:

School CDF Account Name	

SF No. (Debtor Number)	Parent's Name

DIRECT DEBIT REQUEST

Request, and Authority to debit the account named below to pay the Catholic Development Fund

and	50
Authority	Company name
TO DEDIC	GWen rismes or ACNWAREN
	Opput 7, your 3, your Catholic Development Fund, Bear ID 111980) in extractic for any amount to Catholic Development Fund in any debt or extractic for any amount to Catholic Development Fund may debt or extractic for any amount for Catholic Development Fund may be an account had a the financial relation between below extract for the times and conditions of the Devel Debt Reputed Service Agreement (and any further relations or provided below.)
insert name and address of	Friercel Institution Nature
finercial inethation at which account is held	Audriss
insert details of	Name of Account
account to be debited	BS9 Number:
	Account Number
Acknow- ledgment	By signing this Direct Detail Received you asstrowingge having need and understood the farms and confidence governing the detail arrangements between you and the Caldinot Development Fund as set out in this Requisit and in year Direct Detail Requisits Service Agreement.
Insert your signature(s) and address	
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	Address
	D# / /

OPEN DAY PARADE COLLEGE

SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY

10am - 2pm Preston Campus

8 Clifton Grove

11am – 3pm Bundoora Campus

1436 Plenty Road

Open Day registration via - www.parade.vic.edu.au

NETE TRADITIO

BEFORE & AFTER SCHOOL CARE

ENROLMENT:

The enrolment process is now available through the OLW school website at:

http://www.olwkingsbury.catholic.edu.au/location-and-contacts/20/p/before—after-school-care/

Families can download the <u>My Family Lounge</u> app from the itunes store or google play store and book their children in using the MyLounge app.

The link for the website is:

https://www.gkenhanced.com.au/webui/Account/Embeddable/?databaseld=708

Parish of Our Lady of the Way Kingsbury

Presbytery: 13 Green Ave, Kingsbury, 3083



Parish Priest: Fr Terry Bergin Tel: 9462 1221 School Tel: 9460 6684

Email: terrybergin1@bigpond.com

Parish Website: OLW Kingsbury

Mass Timetable

Saturday – Vigil Mass: 6.00PM

Sunday: 8.00AM and 10.00AM

Weekdays: 10.00AM

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Saturday from 5.15 to 5.45PM

Rosary Monday to Saturday: 9.30AM

Divine Mercy Chaplet After Mass Daily

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Friday from 9.00 to 9.30AM

Baptisms and Marriages by appointment: Please ring 9462 1221

Entrance Antiphon: O come, let us worship God and bow low before the God who made us, for he is the Lord our God.

Communion Antiphon: Let them thank the Lord for his mercy, his wonders for the children of men, for he satisfies the thirsty soul, and the hungry he fills with good things.

Readers for Sunday Mass

5th Feb 6pm J Wild 8am N Brown 10am A Walsh 12th Feb 6pm J Glover 8am B Bowlen 10am J Hubber

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

5th Feb 6pm M Martin 10am I Lowe 12th Feb 6pm L Gangi 10am N Buchan

OLW Church Cleaning Roster

11th Feb B Bowden M Magnacca P Matthews

25th Feb Professional Cleaners

OLW Sacristy Linen Laundering Roster

5th FebJoy Conway

12th Feb Judy McColl

1st Feb Church Account \$1319.50

Presbytery Account \$825.00

Loyola Collage: Invites you to a Primary Parent Information Night for families with children in grade 4, 5, and 6. Tuesday 14^{th} February 2017. Tours start from 6.30 - 7.20. Formal presentation commences at 7.30pm.

For further information contact Community Liaison Officer Mrs Dianna Alonso 9433 0228.

Christmas bowl: By Fr Bart King of Carnarvon.

There were more than usual in the chapel of the psychiatric hospital that morning, for Christmas seems to ring bells, even for those who are a little divorced from reality at least for most of them. Peggy came, all four feet eleven of her, pushing Stan's wheelchair as usual while he carried her stick. Bruce came too, with the flowers he had broken off the gardeners carefully tended rose bushes. "These are for God" he said, "because he made them". And in came Suzie, "C C Can I d d do the r r reading?" Some sat silently with head down, lost in their own depression, most were even more jovial than usual and there were many hugs and kissing shared.

Nurses had been good enough to remind some of their people that it was Christmas day, and escorted people who were not allowed out of locked wards without supervision.

Just as we settled everybody down enough to begin mass, in shuffled "Bottles" with a present, wrapped in what looked like some of last year's Christmas paper.

"Bottles" had been a champion boxer in his younger days, but too many hits to the head and too much emptying of the bottles, from which he derived his nickname, had damaged his brain and now he was in the grip of cancer. "This is for you Father," he said. "I made it myself in the pottery class." Knowing that such a kindness deserved an instant response, I hurriedly unwrapped the parcel and beheld the least beautiful work of art the occupational therapy department had ever produced.

With his shaky fingers "Bottles" had endeavoured to shape a circular bowl, but there were many more than one side to this circle.

Overall it could be said that the bowl was brown but a number of splotches of other colours had somehow found their way into the clay and the surface. Both inside and out featured more bumps than a very cold goose. Most eye catching was a jagged crack that ran down one side and almost to the centre in the bottom of the dish. "Thank you very much" I said. "What do you want me to use this for?" "I thought you might use it for Jesus at mass" was the earnest reply. For a moment, I thought of all the black cassock people in Rome who wrote Canon Law and remembered that they said all vessels used at mass must be precious.

"Do you think that Jesus should come into a bowl with a crack in it?" I was stupid enough to ask. "Bottles" swayed from side to side and said, "He comes to us Father, and we are all a bit cracked." Immediately, I decided that I had never seen a more "precious" bowl in my life. "Bottles" and his bowl had taught me what Christmas was all about.

"Bottles" died three months later on Good Friday. When I buried him I buried his precious bowl with him and I often wonder, if I were to open the grave now, would the bowl be still rough, ugly and "a bit cracked?"

ASPIRE FINANCIAL & RETIREMENT PLANNING PTY LTD

SPECIALIST IN TAXATION, SUPERANNUATION, RETIREMENT PLANNING, CENTRELINK ISSUES AND ESTATE PLANNING. CONTACT MIKE OR GAVIN JOLLEY ON 93003388

 $Sue \ \& \ Chris \ Schembri-Astro \ Graphics: 93507033. \ For \ All \ Your \ Designing \ \& \ Printing \ Needs.$

Do you need advice or help from an interior designer? Phone: Thien (Nathan) Nguyen. 0434 359 709. Need a computer expert? Call Tony on 0423694938 for a free quote.

For Home, carpet, window, garden & Lawn maintenance contact Georgeta 0415366709

A & G Home and Office Furniture Removals. 94643931.