Dear Parents and Friends

In contemporary Australia, while Christmas is associated with family gatherings, gift-giving, and holidays in the sun, sand and surf, its true meaning is a celebration of that moment in time when, in the immensely attractive account of St Luke, God, in the person of Jesus Christ, was born in poverty in a stable in Bethlehem, because there was no room for Mary and Joseph in the local inn.

This obscure event, about 2000 years ago, in a distant province of the Roman Empire, changed things forever. As Luke records the words of the Angels to the shepherds: "Behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people ... A Savior has been born for you" (Luke 1:10-11).

There has been much strife and discord in the world since that time, even, sadly, during the past year. For that reason, we need to reflect on the message of Christmas once again.

That message is not one of sentimentality, but of courage, faith, hope, love and strength. We pray:

Our Goal is to be:
A Safe, Inclusive, Happy and Respectful Community. For 2010, we will be working towards “Being Fair”

Our Value for Term Four is “Respect.”

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love. Send forth Your Spirit and You will renew the face of the earth.
Lord, by the light of the Holy Spirit, You have taught the hearts of Your faithful. In the same Spirit, help us to relish what is right and always rejoice in Your consolation.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THANK YOU
With our school year drawing to a close, I would like to offer my gratitude to all in our community for your ongoing support. To the many parents who have volunteered their time to help out in a variety of ways - I thank you most sincerely. The teachers particularly appreciate the work of the classroom helpers as this assistance supports the learning of all students. Your commitment each week has been tremendous. Thank you.
Thank you to the school Advisory Board members, led by John McEntee. Throughout the year, the Board has supported me in my work as Principal and the work of our teachers. I thank all members for their active participation in discussion and for the informed advice given and I look forward to working with members of the Board again in 2011. Special thanks to Kristina Elvey who was a very efficient Secretary throughout the year.

I would like to especially thank the members of the Parents' Association, led by Bernie Kamphuis. The PA has been very active throughout the year and much has been achieved in 2010. Through the work of the PA, we have been able to purchase many new resources for our students and to provide some wonderful activity days throughout the year. Gelatos provided on the opening of the MacKillop Learning Centre were much appreciated along with the activities paid for by the PA on St. Mary's day which we celebrated last week. I thank all members for your enthusiasm and commitment.

I also thank Anthony Traynor, Danny Verbeeten and the members of the Maintenance Team for their continued efforts in organizing and attending Working Bees throughout the year and for the numerous ways you take care of the maintenance of our school. The time that you give is amazing and your generous support is very much appreciated. I congratulate Anthony and Danny on the years of service given to St. Mary's through the MAD Team. Each of them has served on the MAD Team for 10 years and after such a mammoth effort, they are standing down. We will always appreciate the time and effort given by Anthony and Danny in the support of our community. Next year, John Wood and Phil Goulding will take leadership of the MAD Team.

I commend the work of the OOSH committee under the leadership of John and Tina Damiano. This committee does an incredible job overseeing the operation of our Out of School Care program and along with our very professional coordinator Tanya Searle, we are able to provide a wonderful service to our families. Thank you.

Once again our Tuckshop has been well run and has provided a wonderful service to our families. My thanks go to the Coordinators, Christine McAllister and Lynn Daly and all the volunteer helpers who have made this possible.

I thank all those responsible for the efficient running of the Uniform Shop. This has been a combined effort and the team has operated efficiently throughout the year.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of our Banking ladies – Alice Mouchacca, Janine Farrant, Lynn Daly and Lorena White. You provide the opportunity for our children to learn to be savers. Many thanks for giving your time to allow this to happen.

Throughout the year Fernando Mira donates his time to maintain our Fish Tank. This is quite a task so I thank Fernando for his commitment to maintaining the Tank.

A big thank you goes to our staff, teaching and non-teaching. They are a dedicated and professional team who are extremely supportive of each other. They are committed to supporting and nurturing the happiness and well-being of every student in the school and work passionately to provide the best learning opportunities for all students. We are so blessed to have such a wonderful team. I thank Cathy McCarthy our Deputy Principal who works in conjunction with me as we work to continually improve what we are able to offer our students. Thanks for all your work and support Cathy.

I congratulate all our students on their achievements during 2010. You have been encouraged and supported in your learning and I trust each of you has grown into a stronger and better person in the course of the year.

Finally, a special mention of all our Year 6 students who complete their primary schooling this week. Congratulations. I wish you all the
best as you commence the next exciting stage in your formal education. I also extend best wishes to those students who are moving on to other schools. I trust you will take with you many happy memories of your time at St. Mary’s.

GRADUATION

Last night we celebrated the Graduation of our Yr 6 students. Our 2010 Graduation class has been an exceptional group who have developed strong bonds of friendship over the past 7 years. Last night I reminded them to value and nurture these friendships as such friendships are important as we live our lives. On behalf of the Yr 6 students, I thank the Yr 5 parents who assisted on the night. A special thank you to Pam Taplin who coordinated this event and to Bernie Girolami for the delicious food. Well done and thank you to all who helped.

FAREWELL

This week we farewell four teachers who are taking a different direction for next year. On behalf of all, I thank Maree Girolami, Karen Lawson, Marita Canning and Emma Vandenhoven for their many contributions to the life of St. Mary’s school. I wish you well in all that you do in the future and trust that your new experiences will all prove to be positive ones for you in 2011.

LEADERSHIP CHANGES

After 5 years as our Religious Education Leader, John Dwyer is taking leave of this role. John will be replaced by Amelia Morse who is new to our school. Amelia will also teach in Yr 2. John has been REC for 5 years and has been an impressive leader of this area of our work. It has been a huge role and John has given every ounce of his energy to the task- thank you and well done John.

In 2011, Marg Colangelo will focus on the area of Special Education and Student Services therefore will not continue in the role of Curriculum Leader. Through Marg’s diligence and commitment, St. Mary’s has been well supported during a time of rapid change in the area of Curriculum. Therefore we have been able to continue to offer excellent learning opportunities for our students. Thanks Marg.

Other leaders who will not be continuing in roles of leadership are Allison Luff who is standing down from her role as Yr 5 and 6 Literacy Leader. Allison has been an inspirational leader and through her passion for Literacy and her example of being an ongoing learner, she has supported us to grow in our knowledge of Literacy teaching. Well done Allison. Maree McMahon will no longer continue as Prep-2 Literacy Leader. Maree has supported the teaching of Junior school Literacy through her dedicated and professional approach. She has always made herself available to both teachers and parents in order to support the learning of our young students. Thanks Maree.

Laura Ciavarella will not be continuing in her position of Leadership in Maths. Laura’s enthusiasm for Maths has made a big impact on us being able to provide more exciting resources and learning experiences in this area of the curriculum. Thanks Laura.

In the New Year we will welcome Grace Carrick (Yr6), Kellyann Stella (Y5), Amelia Morse (Yr2) and Jessica Costa (Yr1)

A full list of Staffing is attached to today’s Candela.

School Leaders

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as our School Leaders for 2011. I shall look forward to working with each of you in the New Year.

2011 Leaders:

School Captains: Dempsey Mills and Julia Di Cosmo

Vice Captains: William McEntee and Meg Goulding

Community Leaders:

Jessica Atkinson, Madeleine Seeharber, Tiyasha Senanayake, Richard Li, Steven Huang, Olivia Salamone, Louise Ferella, Alexandra Brooks, and Max Balcombe
Sports Captains:
Loyola: Lachlan Smart and Caitlin Williams
McAuley: Jessie-Leigh Boskovski and Ben Fahey
Mercy: Ryan Maerz and Jean Cotter
Bosco: Greta Miller and Patrick Brennan

I thank our 2010 leaders, particularly our School Captains Zac Bakoulas and Danielle Sapiano and Vice Captains Adam Traynor and Johanna Scully - for the responsible manner in which you have supported our school throughout the year and I wish you well in any future leadership positions.

Commencement Dates 2011
The students will attend for assessments on either Wednesday 2 February or Thursday 3 February. All students in Yr 1-6 will attend as from Friday 4 February. Preps will commence either on Monday 7 February or Tuesday 8 February.

Calendar
A Calendar of events for 2011 will be issued early next year. Important dates set for the first Term are as follows:

February
15 Opening School Mass
19 Working Bee Yr 1
23 Parent/Teacher Meetings
24 Prep and Gr 6 Buddy Welcome Picnic

March
2 & 3 Sacramental Faith Evenings
9 Ash Wednesday Mass
14 Public Holiday
15 School Sports
18 Twilight Working Bee- All Families
19 Working Bee Preps

April
4-6 Yr 5 Camp

THANKYOU
Thank you for the overwhelming support and expressions of sympathy on the passing of our Father and Grandfather, Leo Rutter. We are truly blessed to be part of the wonderful and caring St Mary’s community. Dad was a member of this community for over forty years and freely gave of his time to countless St Mary’s Church and School activities, projects and events over that time. It is very humbling that not only will Dad be missed by many, that he will live on in peoples memories for many years to come. Paul, Jo, Matthew, Jayde & Tori.

Access to Parent Page via Myclasses Foyer
www.smgreensborough.catholic.edu.au/mydesktop
Please use your child’s Username and Password to access St Mary’s Parent Page in the Myclasses Foyer

I trust the Christmas season will be celebrated with joy, peace and hope as you commemorate His coming amongst us. Enjoy the holiday break and I will look forward to catching up with everyone in the New Year.

Regards

Helen
SPONSORSHIP
This week's Candela has been sponsored by:
NURTURE NOURISH REBALANCE
MASSAGE FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING
Sponsorship is invited from families for $30 and businesses for $45 to help cover costs.

FROM THE CLASSROOM
CONGRATULATIONS
Congratulations goes to Christian Caruana (Year 5V) and Hannah Atherton (Year 6DS) who in November both won the title of Junior Budo 2010 for their efforts in Karate. They then both went on just recently to gain their Junior Black Belt after training extremely hard all term for that honour. Well done and a great effort!

SPORT NEWS
DISTRICT SWIMMING TRIALS
Just over 50 of our students tried out for next years swimming team last Monday. Congratulations to all boys and girls for their efforts. Students who have been selected have been told. There is a list of the team on the office windows. The Watsonia District Swimming will be held on Monday 21 February at Northcote Pool. Further information will follow early next year.

PARENTS ASSOCIATION
TUCKSHOP TERM 1 2011
Please note that the Tuckshop will be open for sales during the first week of school for 2011.

ST MARY’S PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL
St Mary’s Parish Pastoral Council would like to thank the families who attended the Family Mass and morning tea held at St. Mary’s Church on Sunday 28 November at 10am. A special thankyou is extended to those who provided morning tea to share. Please support Baker’s Delight, Greensborough Plaza who generously donated the bread for the sausage sizzle. With many thanks and best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

PARISH NEWS
ADVENT/CHRISTMAS TIMETABLE
RECONCILIATION:
Thursday 16 December 7:30pm Communal Penitential Service
Saturday 18 December 9:15 - 10:30am & 5:45 - 6:15pm
Tuesday 21 December 10:15 - 11:30am & 7:00 - 8:00pm
Wednesday 22 December 7:00 - 8:00pm
CHRISTMAS MASSES:
Christmas Eve Friday 24 December 7:30pm Family Mass (Carols half hour preceding). Children are encouraged to dress as one of the characters in the Nativity scene. Children will be able to sit with their families.
Midnight Mass: (Carols 11:30pm)-in the church, Christmas Day Saturday 25 December 8:00am & 10:00am. Please note no 5:00pm Mass on Christmas Day. NO Vigil Mass on Christmas night for the Sunday obligation
SUNDAY MASSES:
Sunday 26 December - Feast of the Holy Family - 8:00am, 10:00am & 5:00pm.

UNIFORM SHOP HOURS
The Uniform shop will be open for business during the following times:
Monday: 8:30am - 10:00am
Wednesday: 2:30pm - 4:00pm
Friday: 8:30am - 10:00am
You may order through the office, just complete the order form and return it back to school.
PLEASE NOTE: The Uniform Shop will be open 8.30am - 10.00am and 2.30pm - 4.00pm on Wed 2nd Feb 2011 and Thu 3rd Feb 2011 during Testing Days. Normal opening hours from Friday 4th Feb 2011.
MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT
Thankyou to all those who came to our last working bee for 2010. We celebrated the end of a year which saw many major projects completed including works involving the Church extension and the MacKillop Centre. We hope you will continue to support the MaD team in 2011. Winners of the MaD raffle were: Travel Lodge voucher (donated by Damon Lunardello) - Steve and Sue Hollowood, 6 Movie tickets (donated by Darren Jolly) - David and Agnieszka Miller, Cordless Drill (donated by Brad You & Bunnings) - Brian Williams Leg of Ham (donated by Parish) - Sue Jolly Bottles of Wine (donated by Parish) - Jason Miranda. On behalf of MaD, we hope you have a safe Christmas and a happy new year.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL HAMPER APPEAL
A big thank you to staff, students and parents for their fantastic support for our Christmas hamper appeal. With the generous support of the schools and parishioners at both St Mary’s and St Thomas’ we will be able to distribute 60 hampers to deserving families in the Greensborough/Watsonia area. So, thanks for sharing your Christmas. Kevin McMahon, on behalf of St Mary’s/St. Thomas’ Vinnies

OUT OF SCHOOL HOURS PROGRAM
We wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday February 16th – 7.30pm in the meeting room.
All welcome to attend the Monthly Committee Meetings. We need your Support, without a Committee the Program is not able to operate. Come and join us for a coffee. All suggestions, ideas and assistance are greatly appreciated.

REGISTRATION FOR 2011:
2011 Registration forms are available from the Program.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SPONSORSHIP
Nurture Nourish Rebalance
Massage for Health and Wellbeing
Feeling Stressed? Pamper yourself!
Take some time out of your busy day to ease the stress of modern living
A gentle massage can decrease stress by relaxing the nervous system. It is designed to quiet the mind producing a deeper sense of restfulness
Call today for an Appointment
Special Introductory Offer
1 hour Massage - $50

Rosanna Williamson
Cert 1V Massage Therapy
Specialising in Clinical Relaxation Massage
Phone: 0425 724 926

LOST PROPERTY BOX
Please note that if your child has lost something to check the lost property box. There are lots of jackets, hats and things that have been left behind at the Program. The box is kept under the sign in table. Thankyou

TERM 1, 2011: The Program will reopen on Friday 4th of February 2011

Thank You, SMOOSH TEAM