Dear Parents,

Yesterday was Anti-Poverty day, an opportunity for us to help our children to understand the causes and consequences of poverty and hardship around the world and in Australia. As a Catholic community we are particularly called to right some of the injustices of the world in whatever ways we can – through creating an awareness of the plight of other communities and by creating an understanding of how our decisions can have an impact on others across the world.

I include the following statistics about children and poverty for your reflection. You might like to share some of these with your children. While these facts are alarming they put a reality to the issue of poverty for the most vulnerable:-

Health Care and Nutrition
Measles, malaria and diarrhoea are three of the biggest killers of children — yet all are preventable or treatable
More than 30 million children in the world are not immunized against treatable or preventable diseases
95 percent of all the people who get polio are under the age of 5
HIV/AIDS has created more than 14 million orphans — 92 percent of them live in Africa
Six million children under five die every year as a result of hunger

Education
134 million children between the ages of 7 to 18 have never been to school.
Girls are more likely to go without schooling than boys — in the Middle East and North Africa, girls are three times more likely than boys to be denied education
For every year of education, wages increase by a worldwide average of 10 percent
Educated mothers tend to send their children to school, helping to break the cycle of poverty

Exploitation
In the last decade, more than 2 million children have died as a direct result of armed conflict
More than 300,000 child soldiers are exploited in armed conflicts in over 30 countries around the world
2 million children are believed to be exploited through the commercial sex trade
Approximately 246 million children work
171 million children work in hazardous conditions

Let us pray
Christ, who showed great compassion to the poor, give us compassion toward those in poverty.
Your wish is for all of your children to live with dignity, with adequate food, shelter, health care and education.
Help us take up your work as a community of faith and guide us as we seek just solutions to the poverty in our midst.

Amen

Yours sincerely,
Leanne Nettleton
Principal
Best wishes to all those Year 12 students who are sitting for the HSC

The teachers and students are keeping those students in our prayers.

Summer Uniform
Parents are urged to ensure that their children adhere to the uniform code at Holy Cross. In particular the appropriate hair style for the children is neat and tidy – no radical hair cuts or hair dye. Boys are not to grow what they refer to as a “jedi” or “rat’s tail” and girls need to have shoulder length hair tied back. The correct shoe for the uniform is a black school shoe – not a jogger. With almost a full school term left it is not a good enough reason for replacement shoes not to be purchased for worn out school shoes. Rabens or slip on canvas shoes are not an appropriate or safe shoe for either sport or everyday wear. The correct sock is a short white sock with a one cuff roll down. Parents are requested to monitor this closely as a number of children come to school with socks that are so low that the children look as if they do not have a sock on.

Dance Fever - Tuesdays for K-6 Throughout Term 4
Parents are reminded that throughout Term 4 the children in all classes are participating in the Dance Fever Programme. This means that for term 4 each Tuesday, children in all classes will wear their sports uniforms because they will be participating in Dance Fever workshops. The children will all need to then wear their sports uniform again on either Wednesday or Thursday when they do class sport with Mrs Clark. Please check with your child’s class teacher if you have any questions. Parents are warmly invited to drop in and observe one of these classes any Tuesday throughout the term. The classes are being held in the Multi Purpose Learning Centre (MPLC).

Stage 3 Basketball Gala Days
Next week Mrs Clark and Mr Lee will accompany our Stage 3 students to the Basketball Gala Days. Congratulations to the students who will be representing Holy Cross Primary at these days. In addition Mrs Clark and the teachers will be conducting a lunchtime basketball competition at school. This event was most successful last year and very popular with all the children in Stage 3.

MacKillop Athletics Carnival at Homebush Olympic Park
Congratulations and best wishes to our Senior Boys Relay team that has made it into the MacKillop Athletics Carnival. This is a wonderful achievement as this is the NSW State Carnival. The Holy Cross Team is made up of Nicholas Reetov, Michael Osei Adomako, Cameron Driscoll and Gideon Boachie Best wishes boys.

UNSW Assessments
We congratulate the following children who took part in the University of NSW Mathematics Assessment:

Elizabeth Bell, Emily Dowd, Ryan Garay, Bradley Seib, Xavier Biala and Daniel Fittler who received credits and Benjamin Reetov who received High Distinction.

Congratulations to the following students who were nominated last week by their peers as being Knowledgeable:


Happy Birthday to the following children who celebrate their birthdays:

Claire Szymaniczek, Caitlin Dimech, Kritika Alur, Ronan Tucker, Jorja Darling, Ethan Sitarameevaya, Tiarna Schinella, Emily Dowd, Lachlan Inglis, Bradley Seib, Georgia Corrigan, Shannon Seckold, Shae Reibelt and Sonali Shankar

RE News
At prayer on Monday, Year 5 shared their thoughts on how we can help and support other people through Australian Mission. We are reminded of Jesus’ words: “Whatever you do to my brothers and sisters you do to me.”

Mission Sunday will take place in all our churches this coming week.

Friday Mass
This Friday three girls from Holy Cross will be baptised at our Friday mass. Chanel, Anna Caitlin and Estelle Assam will receive the first Sacrament of Initiation into the Catholic church at this mass. Parents and friends are very welcome to attend Mass on this special occasion. Please keep these children and their family in your prayers.
**Internet Safety Tip**

From time to time it is important to review with your children what you as a family consider to be acceptable usage of the internet. As parents it is important to become aware of how children and young people use the internet. This helps you to understand some of the risks that children can face. There are strategies that you can implement in your homes to manage these risks and help you to guide your children to enjoy the best of the online world. These strategies include:

- Investing in an internet filtering product as a way of controlling the content and activities your child can access on the internet
- Supervising and timing your child’s access to the internet
- Keeping your computer hardware in a high usage family area
- Adhering strictly to online social networking terms and conditions ie do not allow your child to falsify their age in order to set up accounts eg on Facebook
- Encouraging your child to report to you any inappropriate content

We must always remember that children and young people may not deliberately seek out inappropriate content. They may be inadvertently exposed to such content through otherwise innocuous activities, such as:

- unexpected results from online searches, clicking on unknown links within websites or emails, incorrectly typing a web address or clicking on a pop-up advertisement, clicking on online game content or prize offers.

In some cases children and young people deliberately access inappropriate material, particularly as they move into adolescence. This can be out of curiosity or to share with peers for the ‘shock value’ of the content. It is a good rule to BE AWARE of what your child is accessing at all times. The government has set up a great website to support you. It can be found at [http://www.cybersmart.gov.au](http://www.cybersmart.gov.au)

**WHOOPING COUGH**

If your child has any of the symptoms of whooping cough, such as a dry or persistent cough, which may be especially bad at night, a runny nose and fever, please see your doctor. If your child has whooping cough, your doctor will arrange a course of antibiotic treatment. Antibiotics given early in the illness are effective in stopping the cough and in preventing spread to other people. If your doctor diagnoses whooping cough please advise the school and keep your child at home until they have taken at least 5 days of antibiotics. Vaccination is the best protection against whooping cough. For further information please visit [www.health.nsw.gov.au](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au)

**Planning for 2012**

We are already commencing plans for the 2012 school year. Please assist this process by letting us know if you are moving out of the area and that your child will not be attending Holy Cross. Please indicate this in writing and send it to the office before the end Week 2.

**Change of Family Details**

Please ensure that your family details, especially contact numbers are updated at the office when they change. This is very important in cases of accident or illness when we need to urgently contact parents.

Thank you to all those families who continue to collect vouchers from COLES and WOOLWORTHS. Today is the last day for collecting these vouchers. Please send any vouchers into school as soon as possible so that we can organise collation of them and ordering of our resources.

**Friday 18th November** - **2011 Staff Spiritual Formation Day (Pupil Free Day)**

**Friday 16th December** - **Last day of school for students in 2011**
SUPPORT FOR THOSE WHO ARE SPEARATED OR DIVORCED

CatholicCare offers individual counselling and a number of workshops and programs for adults and children to assist those who have had to journey through the painful process of separation or divorce. The Solo Parent Ministry offers individual counselling as well as monthly workshops called “Stepping Beyond”, which deal with topics that are relevant to those who are striving to grow through the experience of the breakdown of a marriage or long-term partnership. The next workshop is on Wed 26th October (6.30 for 7.00pm formal start) at the Diocesan Assembly Centre, 1-5 Marion St. Blacktown and the Focus question this month is: “How do you Nurture Your Spiritual Self?” Bookings essential: Further details and registration with Sr. Eileen Quade  99330205 or eileen.quade@ccss.org.au