Dear Parents / Guardians,

**Fr Daryl Montecillo our New Assistant Priest.**
I was blessed to be born in the Philippines with its beautiful culture centred on family and a deep Catholic faith. I was blessed again when our family moved to Australia where I have grown up as the eldest of three children, having a brother and a sister. The idea of priesthood was fairly far away while growing up and going to church was something of a chore but my parents kept bringing me along, and so I am very grateful to them for where I am today.

The first sense that God might be calling me to be a priest was in year 12, but I didn’t think much of it. I studied nursing with the hope to become a paramedic but the thought of priesthood would never go away. It was only much later that I came to see that it was the gentle call of God. As my prayer life grew, I found myself being drawn deeper into God’s invitation to follow him in this radical way. I started at Corpus Christi College in 2009 and on 12th September this year, Archbishop Hart ordained me together with five others as priests.

On the personal side, I love all things Cricket, and especially love getting to the ‘G’ for the Boxing Day Test. I also try to get down to see the Mighty Bombers through the year! Away from sport, I also enjoy getting to the movies and the MSO, or simply reading a good book, particularly about the faith.

I’m really excited to be appointed to the parish. Fr John has already made me feel very welcome and I look forward to meeting and getting to know all of you. Please pray for me that I might be a good and holy priest after the heart of our Lord. Let’s pray for each other.

Fr Daryl is second from the right

**St Mary of the Cross Christmas Wishing Tree**
We will be conducting a ‘Wishing Tree’ appeal over the last three weeks of the school year together. This is how the St Mary of the Cross Wishing Tree Appeal will work:

- A Christmas Tree will be set up on the 1st December in the entrance atrium (where we have our prayer gathering. Our senior students will be responsible for decorating the tree.
- Children will be asked to purchase a gift for a child their age from their own pocket money.
- Adults are asked NOT to purchase a gift – this is an activity exclusively for the children.
• Please take your children shopping over the next couple of weeks and get them to choose a small gift that they would like for Christmas valued at no more than $10.00.
• Your child is to pay for the gift out of their own pocket money. Wrap the present label it (“Boy” “Girl”, and age eg. “6 years”)
• If your child does not earn pocket money, here is a good opportunity for them to do some simple jobs at home (eg. Cleaning their room, setting the table etc) to earn a few dollars to buy a gift for the Wishing Tree.
• At the end of the school year, the gifts will be delivered to St Vincent De Paul Society and Joseph’s Corner for distribution to children who have very little to celebrate over the Christmas season. Last year over 100 gifts were distributed to refugee children who live in the high-rise flats in Kensington. Other gifts were distributed locally.

2015 School Fees
Please note that if you have not made any contribution to your school fees and a payment plan has not been put into place you will need to contact the office immediately to arrange a meeting with Mr Leon Colla.

As part of the enrolment application that all parents have signed you commit to paying the yearly school fees.
Please call 8376 5400 to arrange a meeting.

Christmas Market

SMOC Christmas Market

When: Friday 4th December
Where: St Mary Of The Cross
Time: 12:30 pm - 3:30 pm
Why: Join this amazing event to help raise money for Joseph's Corner.

We need your help!
Coming Up This Week – 23rd November to 28th November

Monday, 23rd November – Prep Community 1 Excursion

Wednesday, 25th November – 5.30pm to 7pm - Board of Management Meeting

Thursday, 26th November – Grade 6 Transition Day

Thursday, 26th November – 7pm to 8pm – 2016 Prep Parents Information Evening

And the week after....... 30th November to 5th December

Wednesday, 2nd December – 6pm to 9pm – Parents & Friends Meeting

Thursday, 3rd December – Grade 6 Transition Day

Thursday, 3rd December – 2016 Prep BBQ

Friday, 4th December – 2016 Prep Teddy Bears Picnic

Friday, 4th December – 12.30pm to 3.30pm – Grade 4/5/6 Christmas Market