Once again our faith is challenged with international news items over the last few days. After the moving tributes on ANZAC Day to commemorate the sacrifices made by former and existing military personnel, we were confronted by the following:

**Kathmandu, Nepal (CNN)** More than 4,800 people dead. More than 9,200 injured. Eight million affected across Nepal. One million children urgently in need of help. Those are the startling numbers that indicate the scale of the devastation from the huge earthquake that struck the Himalayan nation on Saturday.

Then…

**CONVICTED** Australian drug smugglers Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumaran have been executed by firing squad in Indonesia.

As a nation we stood together on the 25\textsuperscript{th} April to display our deep appreciation for the efforts of many men and women who have defended our country and its freedom and peace. The stirring sound of the bugle and our firm commitment that ‘We will remember them’ personifies our understanding of that Aussie trait of mateship which we so dearly yearn for in today’s often impersonal and secular world. It is these qualities which we will need to fully animate over the coming days and weeks as we make sense of two events which question our compassion and ‘love of neighbour’.

Pope Francis in his last exhortation declared “Every person is immensely holy and deserves our love”.

The people of Nepal require our love immediately. Resources are being stretched and basic supplies are slow in getting to those in extreme need. We contacted the Department of Foreign Affairs expressing our students desire to assist with humanitarian aid and it was clear that the most effective way is to support Non-Government Agencies such as our Catholic Charity, Caritas. Consequently, we will be inviting families to make a gold coin donation this Friday. It is our aim to pass these funds on to Caritas by close of business on Friday. Please feel welcome to respond generously to this request to assist our brothers and sisters in Nepal.

Whilst we do not condone the crime committed by the two Australian men in Indonesia, as Christian’s we are committed to the sanctity of life and the power of redemption and reconciliation. Our very school rules and behaviour expectations are underpinned by the belief in the goodness of each child and their capacity to restore broken relationships.

Last year when I was fortunate to attend a 10 day study tour of Indonesia, I was moved by the deep respect and extreme generosity of the Indonesian people as I travelled across their beautiful country. Muslims welcomed me to eat at their tables and share their minimal offerings. Children in orphanages with very few personal belongings smiled, held my hand and sang as they moved me to tears. University students from Yogyakarta described their eagerness to complete their International Studies so that they could venture into developing countries to make a difference to the lives of those who are oppressed. I remember asking our tour group if anybody had observed an unhappy Indonesian! The answer was a definite ‘No’. The warmth and compassion of their people was deeply admired.

Sadly, the response by the Indonesian Government is at odds to the warmth and gentleness I experienced. How often a nation is coloured by the decisions made by its political leaders! I remember in my travels having to explain to the Indonesian Tertiary students why our Government would not accept boatloads of refugees when we had such plentiful resources and why we placed women and children in detention centres. I often found myself apologising for the actions of my elected political leaders. I feel that many Indonesians are being confronted with that reality at this present time.

It is crucial that we use these moments in history to teach our children to respect life and to understand how precious it is for each one of us. We thank God that we are fortunate to live in Australia and enjoy the many blessings we experience daily. May we continue to be his hands and heart in a world requiring healing.
RELIGIOUS DIMENSION

Mother’s Day Liturgy: Just a reminder that all photos for the Mother’s Day Liturgy need to be emailed to Jasmine by the end of this week so they can be included in the Mother’s Day Liturgy which will be celebrated on Friday May 8 in the SAMMAT at 9.15. You are all very welcome to attend with a special invitation to Grandmas and significant female role models to our children.

ANZAC Day Liturgy: You are all invited to attend our ANZAC Day Liturgy to celebrate the 100 years of ANZAC on Friday May 1 at 9.15am in the SAMMAT with morning tea to follow. You should have received a letter earlier this week highlighting that children can ‘Dress up as a Digger’ this Friday and also enjoy a Sausage Sizzle lunch. Please remember that costumes are related to WW1 or the 1914 era (No weapons please). During the ceremony we will be blessing small medallions which will be given to children as a memento of the 100th ANZAC Anniversary.

Family Mass: This Sunday, May 5 we will celebrate the fifth Sunday of Easter together at Ss Peter and Paul Catholic Church. As this is a Family Mass, everyone is welcome to join us at 10am. If your child would like to participate either by reading or offertory procession please email Andrea White andreawhite@stbrigids.catholic.edu.au Hope to see you there.

Sacramental Program: Just a reminder that the Sacramental Program will resume in week 4, Monday May 18 and Thursday May 21.

Professional Learning for Leaders: Earlier this week the Leadership Team attended a Professional Learning Day facilitated by Fr Timothy Radcliffe. Fr Timothy was Master of the Dominican Order and now spends much of his time giving retreats, lectures and conference keynote addresses. The conference focus was “Living Baptism and Confirmation” based on his book Take the Plunge. Fr Timothy entertained us and shared his knowledge with us and challenged us with many concepts such as:

- ‘Baptism as sacrament’ vs ‘Baptism as action’
- How we need to accept the young, challenge them and allow them to challenge us
- That we as teachers are called to be the face of Christ, that as humans we need to look at each other as God’s children and not judge or be judgemental.

The challenge for each one of us is to live out our Baptism for all within our world not only the baptised. How many times do we judge another person for the way they dress or the size they are? When was the last time we really looked at someone in the face and truly listened to them deeply? This is what Jesus did when he was on this earth. He accepted all, no matter what their background, faith, ethnicity or age. Together, let us really look at the face of each other and be accepting of them. From our school days we are reminded in the novel To Kill A Mockingbird of the following "Atticus was right. One time he said you never really know a man until you stand in his shoes and walk around in them. Just standing on the Radley porch was enough.”

LEARNING DIMENSION

NAPLAN: The annual NAPLAN assessments will be occurring in week 4 of this term:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Tuesday 12 May 2015</th>
<th>Wednesday 13 May 2015</th>
<th>Thursday 14 May 2015</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language</td>
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<td>Reading (45min)</td>
<td>Numeracy (45min)</td>
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<td>conventions</td>
<td>Writing (40min)</td>
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<th>Year 5</th>
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<td>Language</td>
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<td>Numeracy (calculator)</td>
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<td>conventions</td>
<td>Writing (40min)</td>
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<td>Numeracy (non-calculator) (40min)</td>
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Please remember that if you do not wish for your child to participate in NAPLAN it is crucial that you immediately contact Paul Bennett to arrange to have your child exempted.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIMENSION

Punctuality / Attendance: Last term we indicated that we were introducing new online attendance software for our teachers to utilize. The first few days have progressed smoothly but we wish to reinforce the following aspects of this system:

- School commences at 8:55am (Children will be marked late if they enter the classroom after this time)
- Staff will close off their data by 9:05am and send this to the Front Office electronically (Parental support is sought in minimising conversation time with teachers between 8:55 - 9:05am)
- At 9:30am an SMS will be sent to families if we have not been informed of a child’s absence
- Children arriving after 9:05am will be required to sign in at the Front Office
- All children leaving school before 3:10pm will need to be signed out at the Front Office.
LEADERSHIP NEWS  cont.

ADMINISTRATIVE DIMENSION cont.

Uniform Matters: As you would be aware by now, the running of our school Uniform Shop has moved into private hands which is being undertaken by our supplier JS Sports. The Uniform Shop is open for the same amount of time as when it was under school management and we continue to work closely with the current shop manager Sue Oldman and JS Sports to ensure that the service meets the needs of our families. The generosity of Sue to open the Uniform Shop during the recent school holidays was greatly appreciated. Opening times are reviewed regularly but we appreciate that we cannot meet everyone’s needs or convenience. To support families that finish working later, we have trialled opening from 3.30pm to 5.30pm on Monday afternoons. On evenings when School Board meetings are scheduled (4th & 25th May and 15th June) the Uniform Shop will open from 4.30pm until 7.00pm. This suggestion came from a request from a number of families who had difficulty getting to ‘daytime’ hours. As a matter of process for acquiring uniform items outside these times, families are invited to fill in an order form with payment details which is then emailed to Sue for processing the next time she is in the shop. Depending on when requests are made, will determine how soon you would receive the completed order. Items on back order or unavailable at the time of request will unfortunately mean a delay in receiving items. The advice we can provide in these cases is to consider your child’s uniform needs in advance to ensure you have the items you require. This is especially an issue with the winter uniform when it becomes cold quickly and you may have discovered that your child requires a new jumper or skirt etc. In cases where you are requiring an item urgently, you may try the ‘Brigid Bargains’ second hand uniform shop which is run by our Parent Teams. They open only during school times (Monday 2.30 -3.30 and Fridays from 8:30 - 9:30) on the days when the uniform shop is open in weeks 1, 5, and 9 of each term. As the Uniform Shop is now privately owned and run, office staff are unable to access the store outside these times. Should you require urgent assistance please direct any requests through the St. Brigid's Catholic school website uniform order request form, (these are also available from the Front Office) or phone 0488664004.

COMMUNITY DIMENSION

Mothers’ Day Stall: We remind families that next Wednesday 6th May the Parent Teams will be running the annual Mothers’ Day Stall. Classes will be rostered on to purchase items for mothers, grandmothers or significant females in their lives. Prices of Items will be from $1 -5 in value. Please ensure that money sent with younger children is secure such as in a sealed envelope/zip lock bag.

ANZAC Involvement: During the holidays a number of our children were involved in the ANZAC March, Vigil and Dawn Service. We are grateful for their selfless involvement and affirm them for the wonderful way in which they represented our school. Many thanks to families for supporting your children to be involved in these activities. In particular, we appreciated Mrs Melissa Crockett and Mr Christopher Anspach supporting the children during the vigil.

Parent Teams – Fundraising: On Sunday 24th May, the Parent Teams will be running a fundraising BBQ outside Big W at Gawler. This is the only opportunity available to us for this year. We require volunteers to support this effort so if you are able to devote an hour of your time between 10.45am – 3.30pm your help will be appreciated. Please complete the attached reply form and return to the Office. At this stage we are unable to nominate a specific time but we would endeavour to accommodate people wherever we can. Thank you.

Parent Team Fundraising BBQ

I am able to assist with the BBQ fundraiser on Sunday May 24th.

My preferred times would be ____________________________.

Name:__________________________________________________________________________________

My contact number is ________________________________________

Signed:__________________________________________________________

School Fees

Statements for Semester One have been distributed to the eldest child in your family this week. Outstanding fees for Terms 1 & 2 are to be paid in full by Friday 1st May unless there is an arrangement to pay fees by instalments. If you would like to discuss your fee account please feel free to contact me.

Jayne Clarke, Bursar
Dear Families

I would like to extend a warm invitation to families with young children to come to playgroup where I will provide a fun and safe learning environment that promotes personal growth and self-esteem through play. The children will have the opportunity to experience a range of table top and outdoor activities as well as stories and songs. Playgroup is a great place for parents, grandparents, carers and children to meet new families and form great friendships.

When: **Tuesday & Wednesday** (during a school term)

Time: 9.00 - 11.00am

Where: **St Brigid’s Community Centre** (near the front office)

Cost: $4.00 per family - per visit

Age: 0 - 5

What to bring: Hat and a snack box

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**St Brigid's Canteen Volunteer Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Week 3</th>
<th>Week 4</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 4th May - Jessica Blown</td>
<td>Monday 11th May - Volunteer Needed</td>
<td>Monday 18th May - Lisa Goode</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 5th May - Lisa Goode</td>
<td>Tuesday 12th May - Volunteer Needed</td>
<td>Tuesday 19th May - Volunteer Needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 6th May - Canteen Closed</td>
<td>Wednesday 13th May - Canteen Closed</td>
<td>Wednesday 20th May - Canteen Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 7th May - Charmaine Dos Santos</td>
<td>Thursday 14th May - Leanne Cotter</td>
<td>Thursday 21st May - Angela O’Connell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 8th May - Helen Agius</td>
<td>Friday 15th May - Volunteer Needed</td>
<td>Friday 22nd May - Volunteer Needed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**St Brigid's Playgroup**

Dear Families

I would like to extend a warm invitation to families with young children to come to playgroup where I will provide a fun and safe learning environment that promotes personal growth and self-esteem through play. The children will have the opportunity to experience a range of table top and outdoor activities as well as stories and songs. Playgroup is a great place for parents, grandparents, carers and children to meet new families and form great friendships.

When: **Tuesday & Wednesday** (during a school term)

Time: 9.00 - 11.00am

Where: **St Brigid's Community Centre** (near the front office)

Cost: $4.00 per family - per visit

Age: 0 - 5

What to bring: Hat and a snack box
Seasons for Growth is a programme designed to help children who are grieving. The programme helps them to understand that it is okay to feel sad and that grieving is normal. We all grieve at some time.

A number of teachers have indicated to me that they have children in their classes who are grieving and may benefit from being part of this programme.

Children can be grieving the loss of a pet, a loved one, a move from a familiar home or school etc. Whatever the reason for the grief, Seasons can help them see their way through it.

There is a programme for Junior Primary, Middle Primary and Upper Primary.

We need a minimum of four in any level to run the programme. If you think this may benefit your child/children please indicate on the slip below and return to me.

Linda Nicoll
Seasons co-ordinator

Seasons for Growth Attention: Linda Nicoll
Please return to the Front Office

I/We think this programme will help my/our child/ren

Child/ren's Name: ____________________________________________________________

Child/ren's Class: ______________________

Parents signature: __________________________________________________________
St Brigid’s Catholic Primary School is joining in the fight to beat cancer by holding FUNKY HAIR DAY when students are permitted to wear hair colour or a funky hair style for a gold coin donation.

A message from Ryan:
Hi! My name is Ryan. I am 8 years old and in Year 3. I have decided to shave my head to raise money to fight cancer because my Nanna has been diagnosed with cancer.

A message from Kieran:
Hi Kieran here, I’m in Year 7 at St Brigid’s. I am shaving my head to raise money to fight cancer. Last Easter my Dad found out that he had bowel cancer, and he passed away in January. I don’t want anyone else to go through what I went through, so please support our campaign.

A message from our Principal: G’day, my name is Mr Bennett and I am continually inspired by the students I teach as they are confronted by loved ones who battle cancer. Recently I witnessed my own father commence his prostate cancer journey. My involvement in the head shave to fight cancer is a small gesture and is devoted to the family members, close friends, students, staff and families who have been deeply affected by the scourge of cancer. Please feel welcome to give generously to this student initiated project. Let’s find the funds to find a cure to enable future generations to be cancer free.

Please join in and help us fight cancer by donating. Every little bit helps!
Thank you for joining the fight to beat cancer! 1 in 2 Australian’s will be diagnosed with cancer by the age of 85. Your support will help us change this terrible statistic and also assist the 25 South Australian's diagnosed with cancer every day and their families. Today, you can help beat cancer by supporting us. Thank you.
Please come along and make your cup count in the fight against cancer!

On behalf of the Playgroup families I would like to extend an invitation to all families and friends of our school community, to come together and help raise money for a fantastic cause.

**When:** Tuesday 26th May 2015 (week 5)

**Time:** 9.15am till 11.00am

**Where:** St Brigid's Catholic School SAMMAT

**What to bring:** a plate to share

**Entry Cost:** $5.00

There will be lucky square’s to buy on the day. If you can’t make it and you wish to make a donation, there will be a donation box at the front office. Hope to see you there!

Franca Hall
Playgroup Coordinator

For catering purposes please complete the return slip below or email me on fhall@stbrigids.catholic.edu.au

I _______________ will be attending “The Biggest Morning tea”.

I am able to donate a prize for the lucky squares (please circle) Yes / No