



St John's School & Catholic Community Kindergarten



Blessed is the season which engages the whole world in a conspiracy of love!
Hamilton Wright Mabie

Term 4 Week 9 – 4th December 2025

Dear community members,

“Proud” is the word I would use to describe how I feel this week as we celebrate the journey we have travelled this year—and the past seven years for our Year 6’s. I wish our Year 6 students and their families the very best for the future. It has been an honour being part of your journey, and I remind you that you are always part of the **St John’s family**, so feel free to join us for our future events.

I am looking forward to our **Christmas Concert** on Thursday. I acknowledge the students and staff for their preparation and thank Mrs deBuck, who is the driving force behind the concert. A overview of the play is included overleaf, and I encourage you to read this prior to attending.

The **Christmas Fair** will follow the concert. This Justice Squad initiative will raise money for the St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal. All classes and the Kindy contribute to this event, and shoppers can expect to find plants, bird feeders, hand painted vases, and Christmas decorations for sale.

Our **final Mass** for the year will be held on **Friday at 10:30am**, and all are invited to attend. At this Mass, our Year 6 students will receive their graduation certificate and medallion, and we will send them on their way with a special blessing. We hope to see you there.

A reminder that a **P&F Get Together** will be held this **Saturday from 5:00pm** at the King Reef Resort. It will be a wonderful opportunity to unwind, share a chat, and celebrate the strong sense of community that makes St John’s so special. Bring the family along and enjoy the time together.

I am delighted to share the progress we have made on our **school improvement journey** this year. Our Catholic Identity goals will become part of our everyday practice—a testament to the dedication and expertise of our school community. Our second goal, focused on implementing literacy blocks will continue into next year with an added emphasis on strengthening reading across all year levels. Our commitment to educational **excellence** remains at the heart of everything we do, and I am proud of the way our community consistently deliver high-quality education that supports every student to thrive. Together, we are building a culture where improvement is not just a goal, but a way of life.

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to wish all our families a very Merry Christmas and a happy, safe holiday season. May this time be filled with joy, peace, and the love of Christ as we celebrate His birth. I encourage you to take a moment to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas and the gift of hope it brings to our lives. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in nurturing faith and learning at St John’s. I look forward to welcoming you back in the new year, refreshed and ready for another exciting chapter together.

Peace be with you, Linda Gaia, Principal.



Diary Dates

Friday 5th December

- ◆ End of year and farewell Mass 10.30am
- ◆ School finished at midday

Saturday 6th December

- ◆ P&F Get Together, 5:00pm, King Reef Resort

Friday 23rd January

- ◆ Uniform Shop open, 9:00am - 11:30am

Wednesday 28th January

- ◆ School resumes
- ◆ Uniform Shop open, 8:45am - 9:30am



Christmas Mass times are inside this newsletter

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APRE News

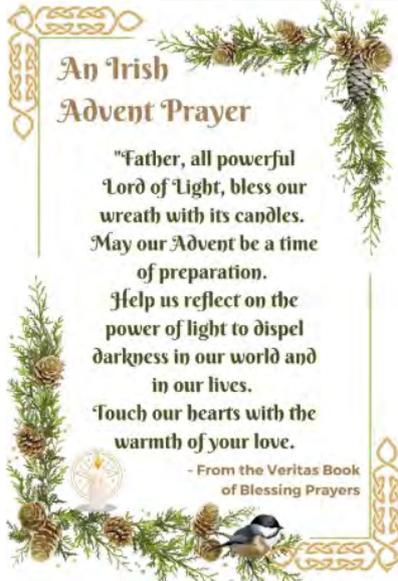
Our final Mass for the year will be celebrated on **Friday 4th December at 10:30am**. We will gather to **give thanks for the past year, and to farewell our Year 6 graduates**. Please join us for this celebration.



Advent

Last Sunday we entered the **season of Advent**.

Advent is not just for Christmas celebrations and holidays, but a time of preparation, reflection and hope for Jesus's first coming. Christians light a new candle each Sunday of Advent to represent a theme, such as **hope, peace, joy and love**. A fifth "Christ candle" may be lit on Christmas day.



An Irish Advent Prayer

"Father, all powerful Lord of Light, bless our wreath with its candles. May our Advent be a time of preparation. Help us reflect on the power of light to dispel darkness in our world and in our lives. Touch our hearts with the warmth of your love.

- From the Veritas Book of Blessing Prayers

I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and on behalf of the Justice Squad I would like to thank all families for their generous donations to our fundraising efforts this year.

Deborah Daly, APRE. Leader of Learning & Teaching

Christmas Mass Times 2025

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24 December

- Innisfail - Vigil 6:30pm;
- Midnight Mass (Christmas Carols 11:30pm)
- Silkwood - Vigil 6:00pm

Christmas Day - Thursday 25 December

- South Johnstone - 7:00am; Babinda - 7:00am;
- Innisfail - 9:00am; El Arish - 10:00am

Wishing all families a happy and safe holiday break.



Merry Christmas and may God's blessings be shared with you and your family over this festive season.

Class in Focus - Year 5/6

This term in Year 5/6, the experiments continued! We've been learning about reversible and irreversible changes. The students loved making their own slime and confirming that this was in fact, an irreversible change.



TULLY GYM & TRAMP CLUB INVITES THE COMMUNITY TO JOIN US FOR THE

TULLY CHRISTMAS DAY COMMUNITY LUNCH

FREE EVENT

10:30AM - 3:00PM

**TULLY GYM & TRAMP CLUB
TULLY SHOWGROUNDS: IGLOO**

No-one in our community should have to spend Christmas Day alone or with nothing to do! Come on your own or bring the family and join us for a **FREE** BBQ at the Igloo! Free facepainting and activities for the Kids!

♻️ This is an alcohol-free and family-friendly event ♻️

**CHRISTMAS IS BETTER TOGETHER
EVERYONE WELCOME**



Wanting to volunteer, donate or get behind this free community initiative? Please contact TGTC Fundraising President Ally on 0400-280-072.



From your School Counsellor.....Miss Jess.

Navigating Emotional Dysregulation at Christmas.

Christmas can be a magical time of year, but it's also a period of heightened emotions for children and families alike. The excitement, changes in routine, sensory overload, and high expectations can lead to emotional dysregulation, making the festive season challenging for both children and adults.

Understanding why children might struggle and implementing supportive strategies can help everyone enjoy a calmer, more connected Christmas.

The school break, late nights, and disrupted schedules can leave children feeling ungrounded. Christmas often brings bright lights, loud music, crowded spaces, and new smells—all of which can overwhelm young people, particularly those who are neurodivergent. Children may feel pressure to be on their best behaviour or overly excited about gifts and family gatherings, which can result in emotional outbursts. For children and families who have experienced loss, family tension, or financial difficulties, Christmas can trigger complex emotions that they may not know how to express.



Tips for Supporting Emotional Regulation at Christmas

1. Try to **maintain familiar elements** of your child's day such as mealtimes or bedtimes to increase their sense of security in the chaos of the holidays.
2. **Create a Calm Space** or allow children to retreat if they feel overwhelmed and need a time out.
3. **Plan ahead for Transitions**; advanced notice about changes in routine for example 'we'll be leaving in fifteen minutes for the Christmas party.'
4. **Set Realistic Expectations**: Highlight the non-material joys of Christmas and discuss different ways that Christmas can be experienced for different families. If children have expectations of a giant pile of presents symbolizing a perfect day, understanding and unpacking this prior to the day can alleviate an outburst.
5. **Teach Calming Techniques**; Breathing Exercises, Movement Breaks, Grounding Exercises, Focus on Connection Over Perfection, Empower Them with Choices, and Validate Their Feelings: Acknowledge that it's okay to feel overwhelmed. Say things like, "I can see you're upset. Christmas can feel like a lot, can't it? Let's take a break together."

Regards, Miss Jess

Kindy News

We recently took a break from

Christmas crafting and fun to go on an end of year excursion to the Splash Pad at Mission Beach. This was so much fun - from the bus ride to being splashed by the bucket!

Thank you all for a lovely year with your children. We have had so much fun playing, laughing and learning with this Kindy group. We wish our Kinders who are moving onto school next year all the best, we know you will do wonderfully.

This week we finish off our Kindergarten year with a **Graduation Party on Thursday starting at 1:45pm**. The children have learnt some songs to perform, and we will share our last play and some cake together before the year ends.

Please remember that Kindy does not open on Friday!

Regards Ms Cheryl and Mrs Greco

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Year 6 Graduation



Santa came to visit