This morning we were joined by many parents and grandparents, little brothers and sisters and a sprinkling of aunts and uncles as we celebrated our opening school Mass in Cooinda. It was a powerful expression of what it means to be a Catholic school and a genuine community of faith. Faith is a very powerful part of our school life and with this comes the traditions and practices of our church. The celebration of Mass is one and the liturgical season of Lent is another, both serving to make our Catholic faith real and relevant.

Back in the olden days, Lent was about giving up but today we speak of taking up and of acts of kindness, demonstrations of patience, respect for others, showing mercy, helping out without seeking recognition and being second instead of always being first.

Caritas Australia is a work of mercy of the Catholic Church in over 35 countries. In this season of Lent our school community promotes Caritas' Lenten Campaign, 'Learning More, Creating Change' (Project Compassion). Our donations to this campaign can make a difference in enabling communities to become self-sustainable, receive education, establish community health programs, as well as learn about rights and entitlements. Our Social Justice leaders have provided each family with a Project Compassion box and ask that we all put our compassion into action by making a donation.

As we prepare our hearts and our minds for Easter, let's focus on others instead of self. This is exactly what Jesus did for us, the ultimate act of selflessness.

Our thoughts and prayers are extended to the Pace family on the recent passing to eternal life of Ben & Joshua's grandfather. Likewise we extend our sympathy to Miss McManus and her family on the loss of Siobhan's grandfather. May God's love heal their pain and sorrow.

Denise Kelly
Acting Principal

In this edition...

Our cover shot features Charlie, Alicia, Lucy and Angus playing florists. Their gift of flowers was graciously received! On the Wellbeing page Ms Jodie begins sharing a series of articles about beginning your child's school year on a positive note and developing good habits that help lead to success both in learning and in their school life. On the From the Front Office page you can find out the Camps, Sports & Excursions Fund (CSEF) provided by the State Government for eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. On the Religious Education page there is some information and photos from the Reconciliation workshop and to see our 2016 student leaders, make sure you visit the Student Leaders page. If you are wondering about secondary schooling, there are tour dates and enrolment details on the Beyond the Gates page. The Parent's Auxiliary page seeks some Bunnings BBQ helpers and invites all Mums on a night out.

Keep your diary up to date by visiting the Looking Ahead page, grab a cuppa and enjoy all this fortnight's newsletter has to offer.