Advent commenced on Sunday November 27. Take these four weeks of Advent to pray more often. Actively look for how Christ loves you and needs you. Let Advent remind you that Jesus really comes into the world every day. Reflect on Advent as a time of waiting. The idea of waiting is not popular in our culture of instant gratification, but it creates in us a new kind of self-discipline that helps us to appreciate the present moment and look to the future with peaceful anticipation. Do something nice for someone every day. It might be an encouraging word, a phone call, a note of appreciation or a little act of kindness.

Each week I will be doing a profile on two of our 2017 staff to give you some background about their experience and interests.

Ms Helene Boller: Helene brings over 13 years of experience as a teacher, particularly in Infants. Helene has been Religious Education Coordinator and teaching at St Bernard’s Batemans Bay and at St Joseph’s Leeton. Helene arrived at Trinity as Religious Education Coordinator and Kindergarten teacher this year and she will be teaching K/1 in 2017. Helene has a passion for languages and for the environment, particularly for children to be aware of the importance of being stewards of the earth. Helene likes to incorporate music as a tool for wellbeing into her classroom. Helene has the following qualifications: Graduate Diploma in RE from Australian Catholic University, Diploma of Teaching from Australian Catholic University and a Teaching Certificate from Signadou.

Mr Dan O’Brien: Dan arrived at Trinity in Term 3 this year and brings with him a wealth of experience. Dan has taught at St Joseph’s Barham and was also Religious Education Coordinator from 1991-1994, St Joseph’s Junee as Assistant Principal in 1995, Sacred Heart Cootamundra as Primary Coordinator and Welfare Coordinator from 2001-2008, St Mary’s Young from 2009-2016 as RE Coordinator and Assistant Principal. Dan has a particular passion for student wellbeing and music and likes to incorporate this into his teaching. Dan has been Librarian, Teaching and Learning Facilitator and teaching Years 4-6 at Trinity this year. Dan will continue at Trinity next year teaching Year 3/4. Dan has the following qualifications: Bachelor of Education.

Last Friday I travelled to Canberra and represented Trinity at a showcase on Literacy and Numeracy projects in the Canberra-Goulburn Diocese. I presented our journey this year which was on improvement in Numeracy with our focus being ‘How can approaches to differentiation in teaching Mathematics increase student achievement?’ The teachers have been busy doing assessments in preparation for reporting and have been astounded at
the progress that the children have made in numeracy and Literacy. Well done Trinity teachers and children and thank you parents for your help at home!

As we get closer to the end of the year the students are starting to get very tired. There are many factors which are contributing to this from pollen, heat, weekend activities and late bed times. It is important that the children go to bed at a reasonable time each night. Some of the students were telling their teachers on Monday that they went to bed at 10pm or even later and this also happens during the week. This results in children who find it very difficult to focus on their work and play happily. Teachers have also commented that some children are bringing junk food to school on a regular basis. Please assist us by ensuring the children have healthy snacks and fruit to eat.

A note was sent home last week for all families to complete regarding the purchase of the 2016 school magazine. Please complete the request form and return to Trinity with the money no later than Friday December 2. The magazine will include the Year 6 Graduation and will be sent home before the end of this term.

God Bless

Marylou Gorham

I'm Waiting, I'm Waiting

‘Advent is the liturgical season of vigilance or, to put it more mundanely, of waiting. During the four weeks prior to Christmas, we light the candles of our Advent wreaths and put ourselves in the spiritual space of the Israelite people who, through many long centuries, waited for the coming of the Messiah.

In the wonderful avant-garde German movie “Run Lola Run,” a young woman finds herself in a terrible bind: she needs to gather an enormous amount of money in a ridiculously short period of time. Throughout the movie, she runs and runs, desperately trying through her own frantic efforts to make things right, but nothing works. Finally, at the moment when she finds herself at the absolute limit of her powers, she slows to a trot, looks up to heaven and says, “Ich warte, ich warte” (“I'm waiting, I'm waiting”).

Though she does not explicitly address God, and though there has been no hint throughout the movie that Lola is the least bit religious, this is undoubtedly a prayer. And in the immediate wake of her edgy request a rather improbable solution to her problem presents itself.

Lola's prayer has always reminded me of Simone Weil, that wonderful and mysterious twentieth-century French mystic whose entire spirituality is predicated upon the
power of waiting, or, in her language, of expectation. In prayer, Weil taught, we open our souls, expecting God to act even when the content of that expectation remains unclear.

In their curious vigilance and hoping against hope, both Lola and Simone are beautiful Advent figures. “I’m waiting, I’m waiting,” they both exclaim. And so are we.’ Bishop Robert Barron @
http://adventreflections.com

Don’t forget

Vinnies Christmas Appeal – items can be sent in any time.

***This Sunday 4 December 10.00 am at St Anthony’s – helpers needed for choir***

Community Christmas Carols Saturday 17 December at St Anthony’s commencing at 7.00pm (sausage sizzle 6.00pm) – Trinity have been asked to present an item.

Volunteers needed

Deepen our faith, show us the faithful way,

keep us faithfully on the way, that we may respond to the

One who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Amen.

Helene

This week Years 4/5/6 were asked in their learning teams to decide on a gift they could give Jesus this Christmas. Mr O’Brien and Mrs Doolan were overwhelmed with the groups’ responses.

The gift of PEACE - “For Christmas this year we would give Jesus the gift of peace. We will be able to do this by making sure everyone feels included and there are no arguments. We know we probably will not be able to give him world peace but at least we could make a change in our town and country.”

The gift of forgiveness – “When you sin your good inner self is locked up in a dark and horrible cage. You can go to Jesus and ask for forgiveness and love. He gives you freedom and you are able to enjoy a peaceful Christmas with him.”
The gift of Making Jesus Real in our Lives – “This year we would like to present to Jesus the gift of spreading hope and joy and being positive in making Jesus real in our lives. We will show the virtues by smiling every day, helping people in need and just being kind and caring people. Our goal is to make others happy, be loving, not be mean to others and carrying out good deeds. We hope Jesus loves his gift.”

The gift of love and compassion – “We will give Jesus the symbol a hand to stand for help in spreading the Word of the Lord and to get through the hard times in our lives. An eagle to symbolise that we will watch over others as they struggle in their day to day lives. And a candle to show Jesus we will be compassionate by visiting the sick and injured bring light to their worlds.”

The gift of forgiveness – “For Christmas we will offer Jesus and our friends forgiveness. We will make attempts to say sorry and be caring, sharing and loving people. This Christmas our wish is for everyone to have fun and be happy spending time together with family and friends.”

The gift of PEACE – “We would like to offer Jesus a patterned heart to symbolise our efforts to bring peace to others. We hope the wars and fighting in the world would stop and the conflicts between friends. Our patterned heart symbolises both the hardships and good times in our lives.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location/Requirements</th>
<th>Start Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 2nd December</td>
<td>Year 4-6 Open Classroom</td>
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<td>2:40pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 5th December</td>
<td>Swimming Year 4-6</td>
<td>Harden Pool</td>
<td>1:45 – 3:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 6th December</td>
<td>Swimming Year 4-6</td>
<td>Harden Pool</td>
<td>1:45 – 3:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 6th December</td>
<td>Year 5/6 Graduation Practice</td>
<td>St Anthony’s Church</td>
<td>9am – 11am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 7th December</td>
<td>Reports sent home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 7th December</td>
<td>K-6 Treat Afternoon</td>
<td>Harden Pool</td>
<td>12:00-3:15pm</td>
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<td>Friday 9th December</td>
<td>Yr 6 Graduation</td>
<td>St Anthony’s Church</td>
<td>6pm</td>
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<td>Monday 12th December</td>
<td>Swimming Year 4-6</td>
<td>Harden Pool</td>
<td>1:45 – 3:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13th December</td>
<td>Swimming Year 4-6</td>
<td>Harden Pool</td>
<td>1:45 – 3:15pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13th December</td>
<td>Presentation Night</td>
<td>School Grounds</td>
<td>6pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14th December</td>
<td>Yr 6 Big Day Out</td>
<td>Big Splash Canberra</td>
<td>8:30am - 3:30pm</td>
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<td>Thursday 15th December</td>
<td>Thanksgiving Mass followed by morning tea</td>
<td>St Mary’s Church</td>
<td>9:30am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 15th December</td>
<td>Kinder Nativity</td>
<td></td>
<td>2pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 16th December</td>
<td>Final Yr 6 Showcase</td>
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<td>2:20pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday 17th December</td>
<td>Community Christmas Carols</td>
<td>St Anthony’s</td>
<td>7:00pm</td>
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Opening times for the Christmas period.

Last day of school term both Trinity & Public School finish on Friday 16th December.

Monday 19th – Friday 23rd December...... Oosh will operate Vacation hours. (8am-5:30pm)


OOSH will be closed Thursday 26th January 2017 (Australia Day)

School Returns

- Trinity Catholic...Tuesday 31st Jan 2017  (Yr 1 – Yr6)
  Thursday 2nd Feb 2017 (Kinder)

- Murrumburrah Public... Monday 30th Jan 2017  (Yr1-Yr6)
  Wednesday 1st Jan 2017  (Kinder)

**OOSH will operate Vacation hours up until Thursday 2nd Feb, after this date, Before & After school hours will resume.

Discounts available for families

Child Care Benefit...Covers 50% of out of pocket child care expenses for approved outside of school hours' care.

Child Care Rebate.. The rebate helps families cover the out-of-pocket costs of child care and it is not income tested. Even if your family income is too high for you to receive the child care benefit, you may be eligible for the child care rebate. It covers up to 50% of out-of-pocket costs, up to $7,500 per child, per year.