From the Head of Junior School

Mr Chris Jackman

Christmas concerts next week. The students have been working hard in preparation and are ready to go.

Infants Thanksgiving Service

The annual Infants Thanksgiving Service will take place on Friday 6th December. This is one of the most special events on our calendar and the students always do a great job of conducting the event.

Junior School Assemblies – Term 4

All parents are welcome to attend Junior School assemblies. In the warmer months they are conducted on the Outdoor Assembly area and during the colder months we move into the Performing Arts Centre. Assemblies begin at 9.00am.

The Foundation Chairman, Mike Quaife requests the pleasure of your company at the

Foundation Cocktail Party

There will be a short presentation outlining future Foundation projects for the school.

When: 7:30pm Wednesday, 11 December 2013

Where: The Kemmis Building, All Saints’ College

Dress: Smart casual – no ties

RSVP essential by Friday, 6 December 2013 to Reception.

Numbers are limited.

Ph: 6331 3911 or admin@saints.nsw.edu.au

This week is the last week for borrowing. All books need to be returned to the Library by Friday, 29th November.

Uniform Shop Hours: Monday & Thursday 8:30am to 5pm; Friday 8:30am to 3:30pm; Cash, Cheque, Eftpos available; Phone: 6332 7303 Lizzy Moller

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We have had a busy and exciting week in Pre-Kindergarten! We have made beautiful Christmas decorations, put up the Christmas tree and read lots of stories about Christmas. We are perfecting our concert and looking forward to performing for you next week! Have a lovely weekend everyone!
A new year begins...

As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, ‘Follow me.’ And he got up and followed him. (Matthew 9:9, NRSV)

This Sunday we begin a new year in the life of the church with the season of Advent. During Advent we prepare for the coming of Jesus at Christmas. The change of year brings about a change of focus in our Gospel readings. Over the coming year we focus our attention on the Gospel of Matthew.

Matthew’s gospel is the first to appear in the New Testament and is considered by many to be the earliest of the four Gospels. It is dated to as early as 50 A.D., meaning that it could have been written within 20 years of Jesus’ death and resurrection. The author is widely accepted as being Matthew the tax collector who was called by Jesus to be one of his disciples, with a collection of early Church fathers over a period of more than a century confirming its authenticity. The Gospel was written for a Jewish audience with the prime aim being to demonstrate that Jesus is the Jewish Messiah that had been foretold by the prophets. It is understood that Matthew’s gospel was one that Luke investigated and tested in his gospel.

Matthew’s gospel is essentially a collection of speeches and sayings of Jesus. It includes Jesus’ key teaching with passages like the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus’ “ask, seek, knock” statement, the parable of the sower, and the Jesus’ ‘Great Commission’ to “go therefore and make disciples all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

The fact that this Gospel was written by Matthew the tax collector is also of great importance. In those days tax collecting was a business. It was essentially a franchise; the tax collectors paid the Roman Government for the right to collect the taxes on their behalf. As businessmen the tax collectors wanted to make a profit on their endeavours and so charged whatever they wanted to the people. This meant that they were a despised profession (I suppose little has changed really!). Matthew’s decision to follow Jesus showed his willingness to change and Jesus’ ability to bring about change and his willingness to forgive.

So as we journey together through the Gospel of Matthew I trust and pray that you too are willing to change in response to Jesus’ call to “follow me.”

God bless you,

Rev. Tony Card.

Thought for the week: “Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.” (Matthew 24:44, NRSV)