Third Week of Advent: The common theme running through the readings for this week is one of joy and encouragement. The readings stress the need for patience in those awaiting the rebirth of Jesus in their hearts and lives. They give us a messages of hope. This Sunday is called Gaudete Sunday because the Mass begins with the opening antiphon: “Gaudete in Domino semper,” i.e., “Rejoice in the Lord always.” This week, to express our joy in the coming of Jesus as our Savior, we light the rose candle, and the priest may wear rose vestments. The prophet Isaiah, in the first reading, encourages the exiled Jews in Babylon to believe that God is going to save them and transform their lives. In the second reading, James the Apostle encourages the early Christians to be patient, “because the coming of the Lord is at hand.” Finally, in the Gospel reading, Jesus encourages John the Baptist to cast away the popular political expectations about the Messiah and simply to accept his healing and preaching ministry as the fulfillment of the messianic prophecy of Isaiah. We, too, should be encouraged by these readings. They remind us that our lives can also be transformed, if we are patient and place our trust in God. The message of Advent is that God is present among us, in our everyday lives. We must prepare our hearts to recognize and welcome Him. (Source: Adapted from Homilies of Fr. Anthony Kadavil Vatican Radio website)

Staffing For 2017: Staffing arrangements for next year are: Kinder teacher – Kristan Nichols (Temporary position for 2017), assisted by Jessica Koenig (mornings – Jessica will also take over the roles of Assistant Principal and Additional Needs Teacher) and Teacher Assistant Jane Border; Year 1 – Kath Brazel (also Leader of School Evangelisation & EMU Intervention Teacher); Year 2 – Jessica Watts & Vanessa Peck (also Leader of Pedagogy); Year 3 – Lorna Aldridge (also Curriculum Coordinator); Year 4 – Sonya Steep; Year 5 – Michael Marshall (also Sports Coordinator 2017); Year 6 – Josie Lulham (also Leader of School Catechesis); Library & PD/H/PE teacher - Mark Bullock (3 days). We have been fortunate enough to be able to retain some additional staff who have been working with us this year including: Music Teacher - Sarina McNamara (2 days), STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) – Fiona Hayward (1 day) and the services of Speech Therapist Nerine McGrath (1 day per fortnight). Other staff returning: Indigenous Education Worker – Leanne Parsons, Teacher Assistants – Jane Border, Bec Faddy, and Magda Tazbir-Buckley. Mrs Di Muller will continue as our invaluable multi-tasking secretary. We also retain the services of Daniel Wall (Technology Support) and Mrs Wendy Bignell (Sand Play Therapist and School Counsellor). I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Natalie Hurrell for her outstanding contributions over the past two year as Kinder teacher and wish her all the best for the impending birth of her baby and we hope she returns to us at some stage in the future. I would also like to congratulate Mrs Lyn Wallis who qualified as a teacher this year and will be taking leave for all of 2017 to pursue experience in high school teaching in the local area. Regards, David Hughes - Principal

Meet the Captains for 2017!
Congratulations to Piper Facer and Calum Aldridge who were elected this week as the School Captains for 2017. Our House Captains are: Milla Seale, Finaly Magnus, Isabel Krige, Lachlan Campbell, Blake Steep & Charlotte Welsh (see photo Page 2). I would like to congratulate all the candidates who presented themselves with their speeches this week – it was a tough choice for voters due to the high quality and sincerity of the speeches. I look forward to working with all our newly elected leaders in the New Year. Mr Hughes.
UPCOMING EVENTS TO NOTE:

- Presentation Night Tues 13th Dec
- Yr 6 Graduation Thur 15th Dec
- Last Day for Students & Pool Day - Fri 16th Dec
- Staff finish & school closes Tue 20th Dec

IMPORTANT NOTE:
EMU Assessments (current Kinder to Yr 5) & Best Start for new Kinders 2017….

A note was sent home yesterday regarding online bookings for every student prior to the start of the school year in 2017. Assessment period will be Jan30th-Wed 1st Feb. Please visit www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use the event code:

sep6p (for EMU assessments) or 5me3f (for Best start).

Please contact the office if you require assistance 😊