PRAYER For First Reconciliation Candidates:

Lord God of forgiveness,
we ask that you bless each of these children
as they journey towards celebrating the new hope
you offer through the Sacrament of Reconciliation.
In your mercy and love,
heal them and bring them to the fullness of life in you.
We ask you this through Christ our Lord.
Amen

ADVENT: TIME TO RENEW OUR EXPECTATION OF CHRIST’S COMING

Throughout time, storytelling has been used to record the oral history of people and to convey traditions and values. The following story has dropped its pen into both these aspects: “Years ago a wealthy widower and his son shared a passion for art collecting; priceless works by Picasso, Van Gogh, Monet and many others adorned the walls of the family mansion. However, a war engulfed their nation and the young man left home to serve his country. A few short weeks later, his father received a telegram telling him his beloved son had been killed while carrying a fellow soldier to a medic.

Five months later, the old man responded to the house bell and upon opening the door, was greeted by a soldier with a package in his hand. The soldier introduced himself by saying that he was a friend of the old man’s son, and that he was the one being rescued when the son lost his life. ‘I’m an artist,’ said the soldier, ‘and I want to give you this.’ When the old man unrolled the package there, before him, was a portrait of his son. It was no work of art but did accurately define the son’s face and seemed to capture his personality.

The following spring the old man became ill and passed away. The art world was in a frenzy and collectors from around the world arrived for the auction. The auctioneer began with a painting not listed in the catalogue; it was the painting of the man’s son. The auctioneer asked for an opening bid. The room was silent. The auctioneer asked, ‘Who will open the bidding with $100?’ The response was unanimous and almost unruly: ‘We didn’t come for this rubbish! Get on with the masterpieces!’ The auctioneer remained firm till a friend of the old man spoke, ‘I knew the boy. So I will have it. I bid $100.’ There were no other bids so the auctioneer’s gavel fell to ‘Sold!’ Cheers filled the room and someone called out, ‘At last we can get on with it.’ In response to this, the auctioneer looked at the audience and announced that the auction was over. Stunned disbelief quietened the room. Then, came the question, ‘What do you mean it’s over? There are millions of dollars worth of art here. We demand to know what’s going on!’ The auctioneer replied, ‘It’s very simple. According to the will of the father, whoever takes the son gets it all.’”

The story contains the essence of the Advent-Christmas story: whoever takes the Son gets it all. St John wrote, “God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life,” 1 John 5: 11, 12. Advent promises new life in Christ. Christ’s coming gives us a living picture of God; through Christ we get to know God. Advent fosters in us the attitude of expectation; it is an essential part of our Christian belief that we should be looking forward, throughout our life, to a life in fullness with God. Jesus told us, “I have come that you may have life and have it to the full.” John 10:10.
THANKSGIVING MASS AND AWARDS CEREMONY
Archbishop Porteous has kindly accepted our invitation to attend our end of year Thanksgiving Liturgy and Awards Ceremony, which is to be held on Tuesday 3rd December at 6.30pm in the Huntingfield Campus gymnasium. The Liturgy will celebrate the 2013 school year and give thanks to our Grade 10 students for their leadership and commitment to the College. Several Grade 4, 9 and 10 students will receive awards for their contributions to the College. Among those awards will be the Archbishop Doyle Award, the Sisters of Charity Award, the Parish Award, the Joylan Scholarships, Principal’s Awards and a bursary to Guilford Young College.
Students from Grade 3 – Grade 10 are expected to attend, dressed in their full formal College uniform. Students will be sitting with their classroom/homeroom teachers during the ceremony. Families of our Grade 3 – 10 students are warmly invited to attend.

CONDOLENCES
We extend our condolences to the family of Mrs Vivienne Lister, who passed away recently. Mrs Lister is the mother of Jonathan, mother-in-law of Joanne and grandmother of Jakob (Grade 9EG) and Mitchell who will commence at the College in 2014. Please keep the family in your prayers.

THIS WEEK
- We farewell our wonderful Grade 10 students, who have given so much to our College this year.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is being celebrated on Wednesday & Thursday evenings.
- The Grade 6 students and teachers are off to Canberra or are on their alternative program here in Hobart and surrounds.
- The Grade 8 students and their teachers are on camp – the girls at Orana and the boys at Conningham.
- The Prep – Grade 2 students are on their first week of their two-week swimming program.

STAFF NEWS
Mrs Lisa Norris, our amazing Science Lab Technician, has been successful in being appointed to a position at the Royal Hobart Hospital. Mrs Norris’ final day with us at the HC will be Tuesday 3rd December. We wish her every blessing in her new role and thank her most sincerely for the tremendous work that she has done in ensuring that the Science labs have been established and maintained so well.

CONGRATULATIONS to Jet Jankiewicz who was awarded first place and to Macy Charles who was awarded second place in the recent Tasmanian Science Talent Search. You should be very proud of your achievements!

CONGRATULATIONS
For the past three years Oliver Ditcham has been part of the North West Bay Scout Group. Over this time he has been steadily working towards the “Australian Scout Medallion”, the highest achievement possible for a Scout. Oliver was awarded this medallion on the weekend at the closing ceremony of the Sir Ernest Clark Trophy. For a Scout to obtain this medallion, they are required to show competence in these areas - Citizenship, Campcraft, Water Activities, Leadership and Management and Development of Personal Interests. Well done Oliver, this is a fantastic achievement.

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL
It is important for students to be at school every day. However, there are exceptions to the rule and that is when students are ill. If your child is too sick to leave home, he/she should not attend school. If your child has an infectious disease or condition, such as chicken pox, influenza, conjunctivitis or school sores, he/she must stay at home until the disease is treated or has recovered. If in doubt about the exclusion time that a child must stay at home, please contact either College Office for information. Please keep your child home if he/she is ill, not only for him/her to recover, but also to prevent spread of the disease.
COLLEGE/PARISH MASS – SUNDAY 24th NOVEMBER

Thank you to the many staff and families who attended the Mass on Sunday. It was a memorable celebration where we paid tribute to our Parish volunteers and to our students who are about to receive this week the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Particular thanks and appreciation are extended to Mrs Leanne Prichard, who again, through her superb organisation, made sure that the Mass was one of celebration and appreciation for the school year that is almost concluded.

From the Religious Education Co-ordinator ... ... ... Mr Gerard Cronly

GODS PRESENCE IN OUR DAILY LIVES

Prayer

“Lord, we ask your blessing on our day.
With your presence we know there will be openness
of heart and mind and a willingness to deepen our awareness
of your message found in the events of the day.
Let your faithfulness and care once more renew our trust in you.

Amen

Reflection

It is not us who shape God,
It is God who shapes us.
If then we are the work of God,
Await the hand of the artist who does
All things in due season.
Offer Him your heart,
Soft and tractable, and keep the form
In which the artist has fashioned you.
Let your clay be moist,
Lest you grow hard
And lose the imprint of His fingers.  

St Irenaeus

The article is Art In Religion 7BM Georgina Newton and Mattia Duggan
Mosiac- collection of images of Moses, Joseph and Abraham.