

Christmas Blessings



*And she brought forth her firstborn son,
and wrapped him in swaddling clothes,
and laid him in a manger.*

Luke 2:7

MARVELLOUS LOVE



On a cold Christmas Eve in 1952, when Korea was in the throes of civil war, one young woman struggled along a village street, obviously soon to deliver a child. She pleaded with passers-by,

“Help me! Please. My baby.”

No one paid any attention to her.

A middle-aged couple walked by. The wife pushed away the young mother and sneered,

“Where’s the father? Where’s your American man now?”

The couple laughed and went on.

The young woman almost doubled up from a contraction as she watched them go.

“Please . . .” she begged.

She had heard of a missionary living nearby who might help her. Hurriedly, she began walking to that village. If only he would help her baby. Shivering and in pain, she struggled over the frozen countryside. But the night was so cold. Snow began to fall. Realizing that the time was near to deliver her baby, she took shelter under a bridge. There, alone, her baby was born on Christmas Eve.

Worried about her newborn son, she took off her own clothes, wrapped them around the baby and held him close in the warm circle of her arms.

The next day, the missionary braved the new snow to deliver Christmas packages. As he walked along, he heard the cry of a baby. He followed the sound to a bridge. Under it, he found a young mother frozen to death, still clutching her crying newborn son. The missionary tenderly lifted the baby out of her arms.

When the baby was 10 years old, his now adoptive father told him the story of his mother’s death on Christmas Eve.

The young boy cried, realizing the sacrifice his mother had made for him.

The next morning, the missionary rose early to find the boy’s bed empty. Seeing a fresh set of small footprints in the snow outside, he bundled up warmly in a winter coat and followed the trail. It led back to the bridge where the young mother had died.

As the missionary approached the bridge, he stopped, stunned. Kneeling in the snow was his son, naked and shivering uncontrollably. His clothes lay beside him in a small pile. Moving closer, he heard the boy say through chattering teeth:

“Mother, were you this cold for me?”

That story reminds me of another mother and Son who sacrificed so much. One winter night, Jesus left his home, His glory and the warmth of heaven to be born in a stable to an unwelcome world. Just before He was born, Mary, His mother, was not welcome in any of the cosy inns in Bethlehem. Instead, she delivered her baby in the darkness of a cold stable. The Creator of the Universe was willing to endure this inauspicious beginning for you and me. That is unconditional love! (Author Unknown)

As the 2018 School year draws to a close, I would like to express sincere thanks to all families for their support and assistance throughout the school this year. The students of Emmanuel have had a wonderful year and our school has flourished under the guidance of our dedicated and hardworking staff. I wish all families a blessed Christmas and pray that all families who will be travelling over the holiday break return safely. As we farewell some familiar faces of staff, students and their families from Emmanuel, we will also warmly welcome some fresh faces for the start of the 2019 School year.

Leaving Emmanuel at the end of 2018 with our very best wishes for their contribution to our school are:

1. **Susan Lockyer** who joined us at the commencement of Term 3 teaching in our Prep precinct. Prior to commencing at Emmanuel, Susan had worked for many years in schools within Education Queensland. Susan and her husband will be relocating to Yeppoon.
2. **Amy Way** who has been teaching Year 2 for the last two years. Amy is about to welcome a new member to her family and we hope see her back at Emmanuel in the future.
3. **Denise Rokic** who joined us at the commencement of Term 3 and will be teaching at St John's Walkerston next year.
4. **Belinda Battaia** who began her teaching career at Emmanuel in 2007. She has taught Drama, Grade Six and this year Grade Five. In her time with us, she has been a marvellous supporter of our school. Belinda has organized and directed school musicals and Emmanuel's Got Talent, facilitated Drama Club, organized and supervised camps, managed our rugby league team and much more. Next year she will be teaching at St Mary's, South Mackay.
5. **Glen Cureton** Glen commenced his teaching career as a classroom teacher at Emmanuel in 2006 where he taught a Year 4 class. In his time as a classroom teacher he was well supported by his teaching colleagues Amanda McDonald and Kathryn Burke. For the past ten years he has been our HPE teacher. Glen has brought many gifts to our community. He has coordinated swimming carnivals, athletics carnivals, cross country and various sports trials. Glen has shared his love of soccer, tennis, cricket and volleyball with all of us. Next year Glen will be teaching at Mercy College.
6. **Kate Rackham** who has been teaching Year Six at Emmanuel for the last two years. She will be teaching at St Francis Xavier Catholic School next year.
7. **Jacinta Schembri** returned to Emmanuel this year and has been working two days a week in Year 6 with Mrs Rackham. We look forward to welcoming Jacinta, a former student and staff member back as a relief teacher next year.
8. **Kirsty Mooney** has worked in lots of classrooms as part of the Learning Support team since 2013. This year she has taken on the role of Indigenous Teacher Assistant. Kirsty is currently studying education and will be working towards the completion of her course in 2019.
9. **Kym Crofts** who has worked in lots of classrooms as part of the Learning Support team since 2011. Next year Kym will be working as a teacher assistant at Mercy College.
10. **Judy Hain** who has been working as a Teacher Assistant in Prep since 2008. Next year she will be enjoying time with her family. We look forward to welcoming Judy back to Emmanuel in 2020.
11. **Tammy Vella** has been working at Emmanuel as a teacher assistant this semester. A former student of Emmanuel, it has been lovely to have Tammy back.

JANICE WHELAN

Jan was employed at the commencement of the 1996 school year when Emmanuel College was disbanded and became 2 separate schools – Emmanuel Catholic Primary School and Holy Spirit College. Her role as Bursar was to assist with the everyday financial running of the school. Having worked for some years within an accountant's office, she was more than capable of working in this capacity. From those early days, Jan's passion, commitment and dedication for Emmanuel was evident through her involvement in the musical life of the school, where for the past 23 years she has accompanied choirs in the Mackay Eisteddfod, besides also providing the musical expertise required to enhance the liturgical life of the school. Within the span of her working life at Emmanuel, Jan has provided a wealth of support for several principals with whom she has worked – Mrs Margo Dixon, Mr Michael McCusker and more recently Miss Geraldine Rostirolla. Not only is Emmanuel losing someone who has provided much wisdom and guidance but also a friend and much respected colleague.



VANESSA DALE

Vanessa commenced teaching at Emmanuel in 2009 where she was appointed as a Music Teacher. Although still in the infancy of her career, Vanessa's experience with Education Qld, equipped her to fulfil this important and significant role within the school. Vanessa soon 'won over' the students with her enthusiastic approach to Music. Vanessa's passion and drive for Music has seen her attain many outstanding musical accomplishments within the Mackay community. For the past 10 years she has trained and conducted numerous Emmanuel choirs at the annual Eisteddfod where she has brought home numerous trophies. Vanessa's talent has not gone unnoticed having been recognised at the Mackay Eisteddfod for her outstanding ability as conductor and awarded the most Proficient Conductor each year since 2016. Vanessa will commence a new chapter in her life as she undertakes the all important role of mother to her two little girls. Vanessa's professionalism and musical expertise will be greatly missed by all with whom she has worked over the last 10 years.



BRENDA PAPPALARDO

Prior to her appointment as teacher at Emmanuel in 1998, Brenda had completed a short term teaching contract at St Joseph's North Mackay. During her 20 plus years at Emmanuel Brenda has taught many students within the Early Childhood classes. Brenda's professional and personal growth has been enhanced by her willingness to embrace new ideas and by her attendance at many professional development opportunities within her own time. Her commitment and dedication to the students in her care has been demonstrated through her hard work and high expectations for student achievement. Brenda was never shy of offering her support with extra-curricular activities such as Optiminds, Garden Club, Eisteddfod Choirs. Brenda has embraced her role as Visual Arts Teacher this year and celebrated the student's work through an Art Extravaganza. Next year Brenda will be working as a Relief Teacher within our Catholic schools.



I thank these staff members for the contributions they have made to our school and send our blessings with them as they embark on new journeys.

In 2019 we welcome the following staff to Emmanuel:

- **Miss Kristie Cordingly** who recently graduated from Central Queensland University – Mackay Campus. Kristie recently completed her internship in Prep with Mrs Rachele Janus. Kristie will teach in Year 1 next year.
- **Miss Susannah Menzies** who recently graduated from studies at Central Queensland University, Mackay campus. Susannah also recently completed her internship in Year 2 with Mrs Sonia Brandon. Susannah will teach in Year 2 next year.
- **Miss Larissa Kirwan** who recently graduated from studies at Central Queensland University, Mackay campus. Larissa also recently completed her internship in Year 6 with Mrs Lisa Whitaker. Larissa will teach in Year 6 next year.
- **Mrs Katherine Cridland** who comes to us from MacKillop where she has been teaching Year 4. Katherine is a past pupil of Emmanuel College. Next year Katherine will teach a Year 5 class.
- **Mrs Amanda Wilks** who comes highly recommended having taught for a number of years in the Northern Territory. Amanda will be teaching in Year 3 next year.
- **Mr Dylan Steele** who comes to us from St John's Catholic Primary School, Walkerston. Dylan joined the staff at St John's 5 years ago as a graduate teacher after having completed his final practicum on Year 6 at Emmanuel. Dylan will teach in Year 6 in 2019.
- **Mrs Linda Miller** who comes with many years of experience having worked as a Music Specialist within Education Queensland. Linda is a passionate Music Teacher and will replace Vanessa Dale in the Music Specialist role next year.
- **Mrs Larissa Simonsen** returns to us in a part time capacity after the birth of her second child. Larissa is well known to our Emmanuel family and will teach Drama part time next year.
- **Mrs Brooke Tomkinson** who joins Michele Jensen in the Learning Support team. For the past couple of years Brooke has been on Maternity Leave and this year has worked at St Brendan's as a part time Learning Support Teacher. We welcome Brooke back to Emmanuel in a part time capacity as Learning Support Teacher in 2019.
- **Mrs Elaine Ivory** who joins the Learning Support team as a Teacher Assistant. This year Elaine has been working as a relief Teacher Assistant.
- **Mrs Sally Stevenson** who also joins the Learning Support team as a Teacher Assistant. Sally has worked as a Teacher Assistant at Clarke Creek State School and was also the President of the P&C for many years.
- **Mrs Donna Shepherd** has been working as a Crossing Supervisor at Emmanuel this year. Next year Donna will be working as a Teacher Assistant in Prep and Learning Support.

We look forward to supporting our new staff in their role throughout the year ahead.

I pray that the Peace and Blessings of Christ rest with you and your family over the Christmas Season and look forward to seeing you all again in January.

Geraldine Rostirolla
(Principal)

SCHOOL START TIME FOR 2019

Please note that as of next year the school day will begin at 8.30am rather than 8.40am as has been the practice. Staff will commence student supervision at 8.10am each morning with the first bell sounding at 8.25am. The earlier start will allow for a longer Morning Tea break for the students with some playtime factored into this break. School will conclude at the usual 3.00pm finish time. Please ensure that your child is in class by 8.30am sharp!

2019 BOOK DROP-OFF

Next year teachers will open classrooms during the Pupil Free Days, for parents to drop off their child's belongings, so as to avoid some of the rush associated with the first day of school. This will occur on **THURSDAY 24 JANUARY** from **2.15pm - 3.15pm.**

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected to student leadership positions for the 2019 school year:

School Captains:

Zihe Huang & Tahj Day

McBride House Captains:

Tanna Byrne & Jorel Anderson

Wallace House Captains:

Elise Doherty & Finn Gee

Castles House Captains:

Erin Synnott & Alessandro Ciampallari

Carroll House Captains:

Grace Bow & Murray Macgroarty



L-R: Alessandro Ciampallari, Jorel Anderson, Tanna Byrne, Erin Synnott, Zihe Huang, Elise Doherty, Tahj Day, Grace Bow, Murray Macgroarty. Absent: Finn Gee

All Year Five students can be proud of their efforts in nominating for leadership positions this term. We look forward to a wonderful year in 2019, with our Year Six students leading by their example.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

Thank you to the many parents, staff and students for attending our Carols Night last Monday evening. Once again it was a wonderful evening and we were pleased to see so many enjoying this special time together. Special thanks to Mrs Annette Worthington, Mrs Rachele Janus and Mrs Noeleen Kliese for their organisation and preparation of the students this year and to our hard working teachers for their contribution and support. We hope you enjoyed this time to catch up with friends and to join with your children at this special time of celebration.

REPORT CARDS FOR SEMESTER 2

Report cards will once again be available through Parent Lounge from 4.00pm this afternoon Thursday 6 December.

1. To access Parent Lounge, open your internet browser and type in the URL for Emmanuel Catholic Primary School website: www.ecps.qld.edu.au
2. Click on Parent Lounge under Quick Links.
3. Click on Parent Lounge icon.
4. Login with your new unique ID number and the password remains the same as previously used.

Families who are leaving the school this year are advised to download and save all reports from Parent Lounge to their own computers.

THANK YOU

As the year comes to a close we would like to take this opportunity to thank our **PARENTS & FRIENDS** executive members and the members of our **SCHOOL BOARD** for your generosity and commitment to our school over the past twelve months.

In particular, I would like to thank **Mrs Lisa-Maree Doyle** who has been serving on our Board for several years. Lisa-Maree has generously shared her time and energy and has been a tremendous support to not only myself but also to the other members of the Board. Her loyalty to our school and her dedication and hard work has always been in the best interests of the students and families of this great community. Her practical approach to life has enriched our monthly meetings and I thank her most sincerely for her input and friendship over many years. This year Lisa-Maree also very generously stepped into the role of President of the Parents and Friend's Association. Nothing has ever been too much trouble for Lisa-Maree and I sincerely thank her commitment to Emmanuel and wish her and her family all the best for the future.

And finally to the Emmanuel parent body, I thank you for your tremendous support and assistance which has allowed us to undertake a variety of worthwhile and enjoyable events throughout the school year. Once again your energy and enthusiasm has contributed to the community spirit that we experience here in our wonderful school. Thank you one and all, for all that you have been to Emmanuel.

CHANGES TO STUDENT LOGIN/EMAIL

Catholic Education is migrating all student login/email addresses to a new format during December 2018. This change is to allow for a student to retain their account as they move from one school to another with Catholic Education Diocese of Rockhampton schools. The change is scheduled to occur between 10 and 11 December 2018. Once the change is made, your child's account will not be accessible without the new login/email address. Should you wish your child to continue to access the Catholic Education Online services after 10 December 2018, the new login/email address will be published in Parent Lounge. Please note, your child's password does **not** change and all content is unaffected. Emails sent to the existing address will continue to be received to your child's mailbox.

OSHC

Due to the Emmanuel Primary School carpark redevelopment during the holidays, access will be via the Emmanuel Kindergarten entrance only.



We wish to advise families and caregivers that we will be closed from Monday, 24 December 2018 and will re-open on Monday, 7 January 2019.

Weekly programs for the holidays are attached to this newsletter.

dates to Remember

Final Assembly for 2018

Friday, 7 December at 11:30am

**If students are being collected after
Assembly, parents are asked to sign
them out from their classroom.**

Office closes

Wednesday, 12 December at 12:00pm

Office re-opens for 2019

Monday, 21 January

Uniform Shop – 2nd hand uniforms

Thursday, 24 January 9:00-10:00am
(Cash only)

**School resumes
Tuckshop re-opens**

**Tuesday, 29 January 2019
Tuesday, 29 January 2019**

