I am not sure if the speed of the last two weeks has been the result of having two short weeks or if it is because of everything we have fit into the 8 days! Over these days we have had, students attend the Chrism Mass in Port Pirie, the Feast of St Joseph, Harmony Day, a Whole School Liturgy, SAPSASA Swimming, daily Stations of the Cross, the AGM and Lenten Breakfasts.

In each event, our students have simply shined. Seven students attended the Chrism Mass in Port Pirie and were involved in the Gospel procession. This was a great opportunity for students to represent the school, support the parish and display their leadership skills. It is important to be aware that not all of the students that attended were Catholic. The word Catholic means ‘welcome’ and ‘everyone’. Regardless of a child’s faith, every child and family is welcome in our school and contribute to making St Joseph’s School, Barmera a great place.

Last Friday we celebrated St Joseph Day, the patron Saint of our school and Harmony Day. The day was a combination between staff and student led. The afternoon consisted of House Captains and other helpers leading activities and games. All students participated well and the House Captains had the opportunity to display their leadership skills.

We have an amazing culture when it comes to SAPSASA Sport. Our students always stand out in the crowd for being well behaved, respectful and polite. Gavin, Ashleigh, Dylan and Jasper were part of the Riverland team and swam well. SAPSASA Sport is available generally to year 5-7 students that are competitive at the sport they are competing in. As much as I love students to be able to give things ago, for most SAPSASA sports, this is not the case. There are a number of sports that we make available to students to be involved in through SAPSASA, if you ever have a question regarding SAPSASA, please contact the school.

The whole school has been involved in the Stations of the Cross in preparation for Easter. The leadership that all students have displayed has been amazing. The quality of the students leading the Stations has been stand out! Nanda in her role of APRIM (Assistant Principal Religious Identity and Mission) has made the Stations of the Cross come to life in the school and has supported classes to understand the story in a context for today. In addition to this, she has also led the staff in making Project Compassion come to life in the school. You may have seen the ‘door’ display in the Administration building, which reflects how the money raised makes a difference in people’s lives. Our optimistic goal was to raise $1000, we have approximately $1200. This money will make a significant difference for many people. Money from Lenten breakfast and staff shared lunches has also contributed to this amount.

I think my biggest highlight for the fortnight would have to be the AGM that took place on Monday night. Each year I invite a leaving family back to the school to share their time at the school. When I contact them my brief is simple and open – “Can you please talk about your time
Every year, around Easter time my parents, who live in The Netherlands, and I have the same conversation. My dad will ask me how many eggs I am going to boil and paint. I will tell him, every year that I am not going to boil any eggs but that we will have chocolate eggs. My dad will respond, with great dramatic expression, how surprised he is to hear that news. My mum will then kindly point out to him that we had the same discussion last year. But, of course, how was my dad to forget such an important detail in Easter celebrations, outlining that he must have been absent for last year’s conversation. Dad will then continue to announce, with great pride, the amount of eggs my mother will boil and paint for their Easter celebrations, which is usually a ridiculously high amount. The saying in the Netherlands goes: “One egg equals no egg, two eggs equals half an egg and three eggs equal one Easter egg.” So to have eaten three Easter eggs means you have had to eat 9 boiled eggs! I will tell you that I have some serious egg eaters in my Dutch family and that, also this year, the competition to be crowned egg eating King or Queen will be on for young and old.

How do you celebrate Easter in your family?

As we celebrate this Easter with good food and lots of chocolate we are also called to relive the rich Church tradition of Christ’s final days. Here we are reminded also of the many women, men and children around the world who are most vulnerable to extreme poverty and injustice. These are the face of the suffering Christ in our time. As we recall Christ’s triumphant entry into Jerusalem, and enter into the story of the passion, we are challenged to do our part to ensure that God’s people are empowered to share in that new life, not only spiritually, but physically as well.

*Into Easter, out of breath*
*Something good is put to death*
*Something mad is going on*
*Something that was loved is gone*
*Far away somewhere, somehow*
*Beauty’s egg is hatching now*

Michael Leunig

Wishing you all a safe and blessed Easter.
Thank you to everyone who supported our breakfasts this year. The total raised was $399.95 and this money will go towards Project Compassion. Thank you to the following for their kind donations:

- Chabrel Family
- Hunter Family
- Kariuki Family
- Patsis Family
- R/1/2 Class
- The Staff and all the parents and students from the 6/7 class

The Staff and all the parents and students from the 6/7 class

Week 5 - Hot Cross buns - Wednesday 16th March
For Lenten Breakfast this week we did hot cross buns (with plenty of left overs.) We raised $25.80 in total. We had to split the hot cross buns and cook them that way. It was a fun experience.
By Jasper, Oscar and Seth

Week 6 - French Toast - Wednesday 23rd March
We were rostered on for the last week of Lenten breakfast. The day before Lenten breakfast Thomas was sick and Wayde was away so Mrs Stavrou and Mr Heuzenroeder made the mixture for the French toast. At the breakfast I had to help with the cooking and I also helped by making toast for everyone. We raised $41 and Kaleb helped me pack up.
By Thomas and Wayde (absent)

Since becoming involved in the Hamara Haq (‘Our Rights’) project, Dhaniram and his community in India have learnt about their rights and have been empowered to speak up for themselves. Now, real change is taking place.

Please donate to Project Compassion 2016 and help vulnerable communities in India learn more about their rights so they are empowered to speak up, ask for their rights and create lasting change.
www.caritas.org.au/projectcompassion  1800 024 413
The week before holy week we went to the Chrism Mass in Port Pirie. We went with different schools in the bus. We had to do a dance and the mass went for 2 hours. After mass we saw different priests like Fr Steve. We came home in the car, it took 3 and a half hours but we did have a stop in Burra and Morgan.

By Adrian Monaco - Year 6
I was one of our school students who got chosen to go to Port Pirie along with Kloe, Kaleb, Blake, Thomas, Adrian and Mitchell. I had to take up the gospel to the Nuncio during the Chrism Mass. It was a good experience.

By Kristen Kanakaris - Year 7

I hit the ball. It was lunch time.

By Kane Martin - Reception
We did tennis lessons with Mike Horsman. We threw the ball up and we had to try and hit it with our tennis racquet.

By Mikayla Rayner - Year 1
When we had tennis we hit the ball, we practised and we had a partner to hit the ball over the net back and forth.

By Olivia Wilkinson - Year 2
Mike showed us some good tennis skills. I learned to hit the ball with my racket. I learned how to serve the ball. I liked playing tennis.

By Christian Mitolo - Year 3
Mike took us to the Barmera tennis courts. At the tennis courts we practiced the game. Mike showed us some new moves and we versed each other! Jemma and I won 3 times against Frank and Andy.

By Josephine Abela - Year 3
During PE we had tennis lessons with Mike. I learnt how to hit a ball properly. I really liked it.

By Harley Schapel - Year 5
When the 6/7’s played tennis I did have lots of fun and everyone else had fun too. We had at least 3 weeks of lessons, then we got to play at the tennis courts where we played more tennis.

By Seth Johnson - Year 6
During term 1 we had tennis lessons with Mike Horsman. We have been doing rallys and we have also been playing tennis games.

By Katerina Makris - Year 6
I wore my Irish dress to school. For St Joseph’s Day we sang come join the circle.

By Grace Trigg - Reception
I liked the star wars game on Harmony Day. It was fun because I got to be a jedi.

By Joshua Gilgen - Year 1
We had a shared lunch then we did games like flyer and than we had to swap over. The second game was a fun game where we had to give the ball to people but we could not pass it to our neighbour.

By Jeffrey Hunter - Year 2
On St Joseph’s Day we made things out of sticks and pine cones from the garden. Deja and I made a crocodile hand. It turned out really good. I took it home and I put it in my room to use as a back scratcher.

By Kevin Sutton - Year 3
On Harmony Day I came to school in my orange shirt. I wore orange because part of my heritage is Dutch. Ms de Winter and Mrs Stavrou were also in orange. I really liked Ms de Winter’s puppet “Dutchie.”

By Alanah Hubert - Year 3
We went to the library. There was lots of food. There was barely any work inside. After lunch we played games outside, I had fun.

By Harmony Butler - Year 4
During St Joseph’s Day and Harmony Day we did activities in our class room, our class had to collect sticks and lots of other stuff to make a gift to give to Jesus. Kristen and Ellie had to help set up for our shared lunch. After lunch we had a liturgy with the R12 class and then we did the coin line, we raised $87.50. We played games outside and then for recess we had some left over food from lunch. After recess we played more games. It was a great day.

By Kloee Schapel - Year 7
We made some things out of sticks like St Joseph would have made for Jesus. At lunch we had to all bring food from our culture, it was good. After lunch we had liturgy of the word in the R12 class, then we had our coin line for project compassion. The house captains organised some games which were star wars, flyer and piccadilly circus. After recess we came together and got into our house teams again and played kick and run against each other and the other house played on the jumping pillow. I think the day went really well and was lots of fun.

By Massimo Mitolo - Year 7
Coming Events...

Week 8P:
Friday 25/3
Good Friday

Week 9:
Monday 28/5
Easter Monday

Friday 1/4
SAPSASA Cross country @ Martins Bend

Sunday 3/4
Faith Feed Fun @ Barmera

Week 10:
Tuesday 5/4 and Wednesday 6/4
Parent/Teacher interviews

Friday 8/4
Hot Dog lunch

Week 11:
Wednesday 13/4
SAPSASA Netball and SAPSASA Football in Berri

Friday 15/4
End of Term 1
Whole school assembly @ 11.30am
School Dismissal @ 12.30pm

Young Riverland Musical Society presents:
Beauty and the Beast
One weekend only - 4 performances. Saturday 23rd April 1pm and 3.30 pm. Sunday 24th April 1pm and 3.30 pm. Bonney Theatre, Barwell Avenue, Barmera. All tickets $10 each and only available at the door.

Hertz Riverland
Our school has a customer discount number, if you require this service contact the school to get preferential members rates and benefits. You can rely on our Award Winning Service, Modern fleet, Easy delivery, Convenient one way rentals, GSP units, Australian certified car seats, Air conditioned comfort. - 0448 533 884

Faith, Feed, Fun
If your child / family is interested in attending this event advertised to the right ☟☟☟☟☟☟ Please see Mrs Stavrou or Ms de Winter to get a consent form.

Our Lady of the River Easter Mass Times

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holy Thursday</td>
<td>Berri and Loxton</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Friday</td>
<td>Barmera, Renmark and Waikerie</td>
<td>3.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loxton - Stations of the Cross</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Saturday Vigil</td>
<td>Renmark</td>
<td>7.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Sunday</td>
<td>Berri and Loxton</td>
<td>9.00am</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barmera and Waikerie</td>
<td>11.00am</td>
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Our Lady of the River Parish
Youth and Family Ministry Team present:

FAITH feed FUN

Join us for a youth led mass at St Francis Xavier’s in Barmera.

Sausage sizzle, drinks and snacks.

Jumping pillow and games.

on:
Sunday 3rd April, 2016 - 5.00 to 7.15 pm
at:
St Joseph’s School, 8 Joyce Street, Barmera
for:
Jumping pillow fun, games, sausage sizzle and drinks followed by 6.00pm Youth led Mass at St Francis Xavier’s.

This is a Youth and Family event - All invited
RSVP: Wednesday 30th March via your school/parish contact or phone Louise Stavrou - 0417 827 634

Due to insurance and child safety the attached form will need to be filled in and signed by parents/guardians for each participant to attend this event.

Educating Tomorrow’s Leaders Today