Dear Parents, Caregivers and Children,

My first Newsletter is normally filled with a spirit of optimism and joy. I have decided to transfer the excitement of the New Year to my second edition (next week). Today, I offer my sincere and heart-felt condolences to the members of our community who grieve the loss of a dear loved-one.

We offer our condolences to the Cassidy family on the loss of their paternal Grandmother, Mardi Cassidy. Grandmothers are so special. **May Mardi Rest in Peace.**

It was with sadness that we learnt at the end of the school holidays of the death of Mr. Joe Magazzu, father of staff member Rita Morello. Rita’s much-loved father passed away after a short illness and was surrounded by his caring family. **May Joe Rest in Peace.**

Our sincere condolences go to a new family to our community. It is with sadness that we comfort Kate Krasoudakis and her daughter Stella (Foundation K) on the sudden loss of their much loved husband and father, John. We ask God to Bless and strengthen Kate, Stella and little sister Amelia at this very sad time. **May John Rest in Peace.**

It was with shock and deep sadness that we learnt yesterday evening of the sudden passing of Damien Burke, husband of our Secretary Anne, and much-loved father of nine children: Chris, Dylan, Kate, Anthony, Ellie, Sophie, Daniel, Liam and Adam (all who went through St. Monica’s School). Many of you will know that the Burkes’ attendance at St. Monica’s spanned three decades. Damien was not only a father at our school, but also our school’s electrician. His passing will be deeply felt by this school community. **May God Bless every member of the Burke family, especially our much-loved staff member Anne, as they all mourn the loss of Damien. May Damien Rest in Peace.**

In our Sacred Scriptures, in the book of Ecclesiastes, we read that ‘there is a time for everything’. It is our time to offer support to these families, to mourn their loss, celebrate the lives of those departed and extend the values of Faith, Hope and Love through practical support.

Please make sure you have downloaded the St. Monica’s Skoolbag App to your phone. Search in your phone’s App Store to activate it. All events in the coming days will be announced via App Alerts.

Merciful Lord,
turn toward us and listen to our prayers:
open the gates of paradise to your servants
and help us who remain
to comfort one another with assurances of faith,
until we all meet in Christ
and are with you and with our brothers and sister forever.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Yours sincerely,

**Peter Moore**
Principal