

## **ATRIUM NEWS . . .**

### ***Wishing all our families all the blessings of the Easter season!***

It has been a joy to share the preparation time of Lent and the celebration time of the Great Feast of Easter with the children in the Atrium.

As this is the second year for our Friday morning group, it is beautiful to see that the children are comfortable choosing their own works and working alone in silence. **To observe these little ones aged 3-6 years spending time in contemplation with God for 90 minutes each week is a wonder to behold!**

Our Monday afternoon group has been venturing into the 6-9 year works such as the Pin Map of Israel and City of Jerusalem. After hearing the group presentation of the Empty Tomb, T (aged 6) was



inspired to recreate the story in his drawings. **We thank T for sharing his artwork here with us.**

**Places for two children in each of our groups** have become available on Monday and Friday. This term will also see us introducing a new group for 3 year olds **to be held on Thursdays from 1.30pm to 3.00pm.**

**A word from one of our Grandparents:** *“Just feeling the need to send you some feedback and much appreciation for your wonderful little Atrium at Clear Island Waters.*

*I have been taking my 3 year old grandson along just recently and we have both been deeply and profoundly moved by this humble intelligent and very reverent atmosphere that cannot help but permeate the senses and be absorbed straight into the soul! .. This is how Our Blessed Lord and Saviour works!!*

*What a wonderful wise and highly integral part of the Parish this is .. like the rare pearl found in the field this is beyond measure...I am almost changing my plans to relocate because of this discovery!*

*How vitally essential is this in this era of the falling away of true piety and the obsession with all things so worldly.*

*The Peace and Spirit we've felt there will remain with us for the rest of our lives and I can only hope and pray that you will always keep this pure little powerful flame burning bright. I shall be searching very hard to find something anywhere near this experience elsewhere but search I shall as this has truly been one of the most rewarding surprises of my entire life. Why are these not in every Parish I wonder .. I should write to the Bishop regarding such!*

*Please accept again my eternal thanks for this life changing glimpse into the true Heart of our dearest Jesus .. He must be so proud!!... All the best for the future .. Please keep up this most excellent work which bears much fruit and may God bless His precious Atrium. Therese*

Our two **Baptism preparation** groups have been great ... **with 12 children attending for this six week cycle!** Please continue to keep these children and their families in your prayers as they complete their preparation. It has been a very rewarding time for us, as Catechists, to share in these families' growth in their understanding of our faith.

**A word from one of our Baptism Parents:** *“The Atrium was a really welcoming and engaging space for both P and myself. Both Angela and Shannon were so patient and kind and catered the experience so beautifully for the children present. I honestly didn't know what to expect coming into the Atrium for the first time but very quickly I felt like nothing was a problem, and I couldn't have felt more at home. Such a great introduction into the Catholic faith for my little girl, and one that had even myself thinking about all things spiritual.” Briana*

**We are so pleased to welcome Rachel and Patricia as volunteers working in the Atrium!** If you are thinking about volunteering a little time in the Parish, please think about helping us in the Atrium. There is pressure on for us to complete the works for use in the 6-9 room and we **would appreciate any help from parents and parishioners to achieve this goal.**

**DATE CLAIMER:** CGS Australia will be holding a regional **Retreat weekend at Graceville Atrium** commencing **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2016, all are welcome to attend.** Please contact Angela to express your interest.

*Atrium re-opens on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April, 2016.*

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