CALLING ON A GIFT FROM OUR COMMUNITY

**GIFT (Giving in Faith Together)** is a new outreach ministry in the community of North Harbour that supports families in stress in the Parish neighbourhood. The heart of the **GIFT** ministry is quite simply “Families helping Families” and in doing so will create stronger bonds within the Parish community and an avenue for families of faith to put that faith into immediate, local action. The **GIFT** ministry will offer the children of our Parish a strong effective example of Faith in Action and response to our Baptismal and Eucharistic obligation to “reach out” to the needy amongst us. It will raise awareness of the hidden struggles within our community and engender a greater sense of gratitude for the many blessings from the Holy Spirit we all have been showered with.

The current **GIFT** drives support two local services (the *Dalwood Spilstead Service* and the *LINK Cromer Food Bank (Link Cromer Food Care Program)*) that help some of the most vulnerable families on the northern beaches through coordinating:

- **Specific donation drives for urgently needed items.**
- **Regular cook-offs of nutritional meals.**

The next drive for **Dalwood House** happens on the 1st week of the 3rd term. **GIFT** is asking families to consider the needs in the community where possible divert any items on the list that they have now outgrown or no longer use to the drive (please visit www.gift.org.au).

The specific donation drives are planned to happen once a term, towards the end of the term. So we would like to encourage our students together with their parents to sort out some items in their homes on holiday and be generous to donate them through **GIFT**. We will provide boxes and labels for donated goods on the collection day. The Duke of Edinburgh program students will attend the cook-off as part of their community service and in response to their social justice awareness. We would like also to ask the parents to volunteer on the said cook-off events. The (cook-offs date will be advised sooner.) cook-offs are currently being planned to commence in June and opportunities to participate will be communicated at the Masses, in the Parish and school bulletins, and via www.GIFT.org.au

Let us listen well to the words of St Augustine –

“What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like”.

With gratitude, we continue to serve and do all things in love.

For more details regarding the **GIFT** ministry, please email info@gift.org.au or text/call 0402687414