



## ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE HUNTERS HILL

Mark Street, Hunters Hill, NSW 2110

Post: Locked Bag 5009, Gladesville NSW 1675

T: +61 2 9816 0900

F: +61 2 9879 6804

E: [sjc@joeys.org](mailto:sjc@joeys.org)

W: [www.joeys.org](http://www.joeys.org)

Friday 2 September 2016

## Tanzania Immersion Easter 2017



Dear parents and carers,

Current Year 11 students (Year 12 students 2017) and current Year 9 students (Year 10 students 2017) are invited to apply to be part of an immersion opportunity to Tanzania. This immersion will take place during the Easter holidays 2017.

This is only the second time this unique opportunity has been offered to Joeys boys, further developing our alliance with The School of St Jude.

The immersion is a tangible expression of 'mission' in the sense that those who participate are undertaking a pilgrimage, an exploration of their own spirituality and place. It will challenge their perception of needs and wants.

The school of St Jude was established by Gemma Sisia (ne Rice) in 2002 to educate the poorest of the poor and is now one of the top academic achieving schools in the country. Gemma Sisia is a country girl from Guyra in NSW who has achieved great things for some of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable children in the world. Gemma's seven brothers attended Joeys as boarders and she very much feels like she is part of the Joeys family and is very excited to share her vision and experiences with our Joe boys.

Poverty in Tanzania is endemic and the country is ranked 199 out of 229 nations in the world for GDP per capita. As a nation Tanzania is unable to provide its children with a quality education and the government school system is overstretched, under-resourced, and produces poor educational outcomes for Tanzanian society. Only 5% of children in Tanzania attend secondary school and for the poor children, their chances of attending secondary school are extremely limited.

St Jude's provides a free, high-quality education to children who due to poverty and social pressures would otherwise be unlikely to complete their schooling. Drawn from families who often live on less than \$1.25 per day, the pupils of St Jude's are shining examples of what students can achieve when they are given the opportunity to receive a quality education. The school works towards a model that supports its students through tertiary education and completing the mission to create the next generation of Tanzanian leaders. Of the 61 recent graduates of St Jude, it is anticipated that twenty will study medicine; twenty will study Engineering and the rest Economics or other courses. Outstanding results for children who had next to no chance of being educated beyond primary school.

On this immersion, it is proposed that our students will spend some of their time working with the students at St Jude, however, they will also spend time working with recent graduates of St Jude working in a local government schools. They will also visit the homes of some of the students to witness first-hand the poverty these students live with every day. They will also have opportunities to celebrate in the rich culture of the Massai people by visiting Massai villages and markets and they will be treated to a 2 day safari visiting some of the most spectacular game life park in the world.

Each student who participates in an immersion is required to involve themselves deeply in the places and cultures that they are privileged to visit. There is a program of preparation for the students. Students are expected to participate fully in reflecting upon the experience throughout the immersion, seeking ways to find God in our lives and the lives of those people they are privileged to meet and live with during this time. Upon their return, the student is also expected to share the fruit of their experience and to be a leader in promoting our care and concern for our brothers and sisters in other parts of Australia and the world.

Proposed dates: 8 – 22 April, 2017

A draft sample of what our boys may participate in while visiting Tanzania.

- Peer teaching with recent St Jude graduates at local government schools.
- Visit Primary and Smith campus at St Jude and witness the school in action. Take Swahili and cultural lessons and enjoy Q & A with St Jude founder, Gemma Sisia.
- Visit boarding - With over 1600 students in boarding at St Jude, our students will be given the opportunity to see how boarding at St Jude's operates.
- Home visits - This will be a highlight for many of our students. The students at St Jude come from some of the poorest areas in Tanzania.
- Visit a traditional Maasai Boma Village and Maasai markets
- Visit Shanga - This is an amazing small business employing over 50 disabled, mute and deaf people dedicated to supporting and empowering people with disabilities to live independent lives. These amazing people create beautiful, unique, high quality handmade jewellery, glassware and home ware using recycled materials.
- Join the locals and celebrate children's mass in Swahili
- Safari - 2 day - Tarangire National Park and Ngorongoro Crater

Estimated cost of this trip inclusive of flights, accommodation and food: \$5,750

(This estimate is subject to currency and airfare fluctuations as all costs in Tanzania have been quoted in US dollars). A deposit of \$900 will be required by 14 October 2016 with the full amount payable by the end of February 2017. Students will also be required to fund their own immunisations prior to departure.

For more information about The School of St Jude visit their website: <http://www.schoolofstjude.org>

Watch Gemma Sisia on Australia story: <http://www.schoolofstjude.org/st-judes-videos/australian-story-africa-calling?A=SearchResult&SearchID=8530803&ObjectID=3019356&ObjectType=35>

#### **Application Process:**

It is envisaged that this will be a popular immersion opportunity and as such, if your son is interested, I would ask that he does the following:

- Students to email a letter of application to Mrs Lesley Maher at the address: [mission@joeys.org](mailto:mission@joeys.org) to be received no later than 12 September 2016 which includes the following information:
  - i) Your understanding of what is meant by the Service-Learning Partnership. How does this reflect the teachings of the Catholic faith?
  - ii) Your personal reasons for wanting to be part of this immersion opportunity in 2017.
  - iii) The name of one referee and their phone number other than your Boarding Coordinator (these will automatically be spoken to). This does not have to be a Joeys staff member, but of course it can be.
- A short list will be developed based on your written applications.
- Participants in the 2017 visit will be announced by 20 September 2016.

If you require further assistance with this process, please email me at [lmaher@joeys.org](mailto:lmaher@joeys.org)

**Please ensure that your application is emailed to**  
**[mission@joeys.org](mailto:mission@joeys.org)**

Many thanks for your interest. I look forward to your son's application.



*Lesley Maher*  
Director of Mission