

RE NEWSLETTER TERM 2, 2021

'Our Mission School, provides a genuine and ongoing encounter with Christ;
strives for excellence in education and hauora for all.'

'He kura manaakitanga, he kura whakapono ki Hehu Karaiti, kahikitia te
mātauranga, me te hauora o te tangata.'



Dear Parents and Whānau,

Welcome back everyone! I hope that you enjoyed a wonderful holiday break, filled with lots of family fun. In today's RE Newsletter, I will give a brief outline of areas of Religious Education and Catholic Character we will be focussing on this term. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate in contacting me.



The Year of St Joseph

During this, the Year of St Joseph, we continue to focus on our theme...'***Walking in HIS footsteps – justly, tenderly, humbly***'. We continue to focus on how we, like Joseph, can be an ordinary person who makes an extraordinary difference. How through the eyes, heart, and hands of Christ we can see, judge and act with love. We do not do this for attention and stardom, but because it is right and just. God gave us all the tools we need, so now we need to construct and build his kingdom here on earth.

Our question this term, "***What tools do you have in your toolbox?***"

RE Curriculum

This term we will be undertaking two strands of the NZ Religious Education curriculum; '***Holy Spirit***' and '***Church***'. During term two, alongside our year theme, we spent much time discussing how we are called to make God's invisible power (Holy Spirit) visible each and every day; in our thoughts, actions and interactions. Both of the curriculum strands will further support our learners' knowledge, understanding, and faith in action.

While exploring the Holy Spirit, children will learn; that the Holy Spirit is God, the third person of the Trinity. They will understand that the Holy Spirit enables them to grow in tapu and mana; is present in whānau, Church, Scripture, Sacrament and the world; has many titles and symbols; and unites us with Jesus to continue his work (walking in HIS footsteps).

The Church strand will further develop children's understanding of the Church as a community of disciples, and its mission is to continue Jesus' mission to teach and proclaim the gospel to all. They will recognise that through our faith, we are called together as a reconciling, worshipping, serving, celebrating community.

First Communion

This term, we look forward to celebrating First Communion (Eucharist) with 32 children. Families of enrolled students will have been contacted by Michelle Butler (Parish Young Family Minister). Please read through the information carefully, and submit your google form response ASAP. Please also note, for children to begin preparation, at least one parent must attend one of the parent meetings being provided. You can choose either of the following meetings to attend; ***Thursday 13th May (7-9pm) OLHC, or Sunday 16th May (3-5pm) at St Joseph's Church Hall.***



Children will attend three preparation classes here at school. They will then be required for a Mass practice on ***Thursday 10th June, 6:30pm St Joseph's Church***. First Communion Mass will be held on ***Sunday 13th June at 11am, at St Joseph's Church***. There will be a celebration luncheon for recipients, family and friends following Mass.

Any queries relating to details, please contact Michelle Butler youngfamilyminister@catholicparishnp.nz or 06 757 3682.

THIS TERM WE ARE LEARNING ABOUT...

THE HOLY SPIRIT



The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity and came to earth to unite us with Jesus in our daily lives.

Pentecost Sunday is on 23rd May. We call this the birthday of the Church because this was when the Holy Spirit was sent to reassure and encourage Jesus' people to not be afraid to carry on and share His good news (even though he had gone to heaven).



**THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD AND IS WITH US ALWAYS!
WE ARE LEARNING THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WORKS THROUGH PEOPLE IN OUR DAILY LIVES.**

"You will receive the power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you shall be my witnesses to the ends of the earth." Act 1:8



YOU COULD ASK YOUR CHILD:

- What do you know about the Holy Spirit working in you?
- Do you know any of the titles or symbols of the Holy Spirit in the bible? (flame, wind, dove etc.)
- When is a time that you have felt the Holy Spirit working in you to make a good choice or to use courage?
- When you get older, what kind of job would you like to do and how do you think the Holy Spirit might work through you?
- Can you show me the sign of the cross saying the three parts of the Trinity?

"In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
(Some children may even be able to say it in a different language!)

YOU CAN SUPPORT YOUR CHILD WITH THEIR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION BY:

- Walking in the wind and remembering how it is like the Holy Spirit.
(You cannot see it but you can feel it and see the effects of it.)
- Talking about the fruits of the Holy Spirit and how you can use them at home and school.
(Galatians 4:22-25)
- Encourage them to let the Holy Spirit work through them to make good choices and reach out to others.
Be sure to tell them when you notice the Holy Spirit working in them when they show love, patience, kindness etc.



Because we have celebrated Easter recently our liturgical colour is GOLD. You will see this joyful colour on our prayer tables and in the church. It is a bright and happy time in our church calendar.

Children's Sunday Masses

We have two Children's Masses this term. As a member of our Catholic School family, please make every effort to attend. We do expect families to participate, and very much look forward to seeing you there. Children who are invited to make a prayer/reading, participate in the choir and/or lead offertory, will be sent home with a note the week prior to Mass.

All children are asked to attend in mufti clothing and sit with their family. Our first Mass for term two is on **Sunday 23rd May (Pentecost Sunday)**. The second is on **Sunday 4th July**. Both Masses begin at 9am. Please pop these dates in your calendar now.

Term Two Buddy Class Masses

During term two, we will be hosting Buddy Class Masses here at School. These will be held on the Tuesday mornings as outlined below. Mass begins at 9.00am in the classroom. The children would be delighted if you could join us. We look forward to seeing you there:

11th May	Lawn & Te Hononga
25th May	Lourdes & Mission
1 st June	Trinity, Pohutukawa & Redwood
15th June	Fatima & Carroll
22nd June	Heidelberg & Barbier
29th June	Cullinane & McKenna



St Vincent de Paul - Young Vinnies Programme

Thank you to all who supported our Young Vinnies with their Caritas fundraising efforts at the end of term one. As a community, we raised \$370. By donating, each of you have made it possible for Caritas to respond to the needs of poor and vulnerable communities throughout the world, including; Cambodia, Fiji, Kiribati, as well as here in New Zealand. It is wonderful to have this opportunity to show our young people, that as both an individual, and a collective community we can impact change. Thank you everyone for your support. The Young Vinnies will update us during the term, about their next project. Thank you to Miss O'Neill for her wonderful coordination and organisation of this group.

RE Club

On alternate Wednesday lunchtimes, children have the opportunity to attend RE Club in Lourdes. There is always a great buzz of excitement and engagement from the large group who participate. They absolutely love the 'hands-on' activities and crafts provided. Not only does this give children an opportunity to further development their faith, but also to collaborate, connect and communicate with many more peers from across our school family. Absolutely awesome! A huge thank you to Mrs Edgecombe and Miss Perrett for their fabulous enthusiasm, and organisation of these much loved events.

Enviro Group

In 2015, Pope Francis wrote his letter *Laudato si'* (*Praise Be to You*). A great, child-friendly summary of this piece of writing can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KOgF2Kgel6k>.

Pope Francis invites us to examine our lifestyles and reduce, recycle, reuse and refuse. He promotes our relationships with God, with our neighbour, and with our planet home. This reminds us to show kaitiakitanga, as the guardians of creation. It is wonderful to see this actively promoted across our school, and in particular with our awesome Enviro Group. These students are showing great respect and spiritual connection with God's creation, and it is wonderful to see the sustainability projects they are initiating. Thank you to Mrs Bricknall for her fabulous organisation and coordination of this group. If there are any community groups, or parents who have ideas and/or would like to support projects please let Jane Ann know.



Parent Volunteer Baking Team

A HUGE thank you to our Baking and Meal team, who so generously give their time and cooking skills to both welcome, and support, families across our School community. This is truly appreciated by all. If you too, have a love of baking/cooking and would like to use your skills to support others, please let me know. The more hands, the merrier!



Seasons for Growth

Life can have many ups and downs. For some children, because of events outside of their control, they may benefit from additional support. In term three, we will once again be hosting the **Seasons for Growth programme** here at St Joseph's. Seasons for Growth is a programme for young people who are suffering grief and loss through death or life threatening illness of a parent or close relative; separation or divorce of parents; long-term imprisonment of a parent or close family member; long-term placement with foster parents; migration or other circumstances.

Support is provided in small, age-appropriate groups of young people who work alongside two volunteer adult companions. It runs for nine weekly sessions. We are looking for registered interest for children who may benefit from this programme. If you have any queries relating to the programme you are welcome to contact Judy Wood (NP coordinator) 0277 033 769; newplymouth@seasonsfg.org.nz. Or, if you would like to register your child to begin this programme in term three, please let me know ASAP.

God bless you all,
Wendie Hildred

DRS & LAWN CLASS TEACHER
wendie@stjosephsnp.school.nz