

TŪRANGAWAEWAE

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS - A PLACE TO STAND



CSD 21

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DAY

WEDNESDAY 29 SEPT 2021

Catholic Schools Day 29 September 2021

Theme: Tūrangawaewae: Catholic Schools-A Place to Stand

Tūrangawaewae is the understanding that we have places where we feel connected and inspired. It is a place of security and foundation (www.teara.govt.nz). Through our baptism we become part of the faithful, te whānau whakapono, and through our baptism we find a place to stand which is woven through our stories that connect us together to the land, to our tūrangawaewae.

Foundations and connections to faith are strengthened in our Catholic schools which are an integral part of the wider Church. It is here that children, their whānau, and teachers strengthen their sense of what it means to be Catholic and belonging to parish. School and parish become tūrangawaewae.

Belonging gives us a home with others so that we share a vision, a place where we are helped to care for others and others care for us. The joy and energy that come from caring for one another creates the 'us'. In doing so, together, our humanity is strengthened (Pope Francis (2020) *Fratelli Tutti-On fraternity and social friendship*). Belonging sounds agreeable but it has its challenges, as it calls us to action. The 'us' extends beyond our close relationships to all of humanity creating what in *Fratelli Tutti* Pope Francis terms 'social friendship', a love capable of transcending borders if we move beyond ourselves. He uses the Catholic social teachings of the dignity of the human person, the common good, stewardship, and solidarity to shape this mindset.

We do not thrive in isolation: we need community that supports and helps us to learn to be a gift of self to others, and to seek the best for them. Pope Francis calls us to enact this dream together, as a single human family who are companions on a journey in our common home (Pope Francis (2020) *Fratelli Tutti-On fraternity and social friendship*). He uses the parable of the Good Samaritan to break open his message that we are deeply tied together and are stronger together. And, that it is in the encounter of the other (and encountering Christ in the other) that we come to know ourselves and experience the beauty of life. This life exists where there is a bond, connectedness, communion, relationship and belonging.